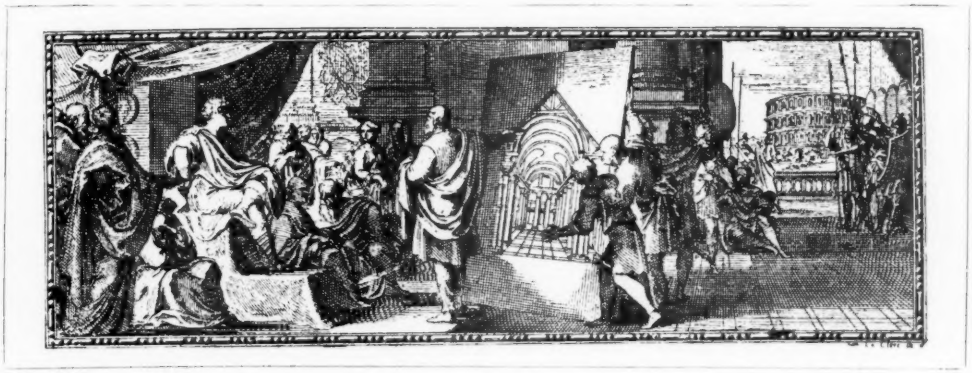


THE RELATION OF THE PEOPLE TO ARCHITECTURE.

By James S. Gibson [*F.*].

Read before the Birmingham Architectural Association, 6th February 1903.

THERE are many side issues interwoven with this subject, and it may perhaps be necessary to touch on some of them in dealing with the whole matter, though our chief concern will be—"What attitude does the mass of the people assume towards our work?" in contra-distinction to their attitude towards our profession. A brief survey of this phase of the past history of architecture may enable us to gain a clearer view of the present position, at any rate it will give us some material for consideration.

Our knowledge of the works of ancient architecture is almost entirely based on the great masterpieces of the past; many of them have survived wholly or in part to our time, and have been seen by us, or by means of drawings or photographs we have obtained some conception of them. They have inspired in us certain emotions and guided our judgment, enabling us to form a standard of taste by which other works might be estimated. In a still greater degree has this been the case with the general body of the people, whose knowledge of the history of architecture must necessarily be meagre and superficial. We have little knowledge of the homes of the masses of these past days: of the Egyptian, Greek, and Roman Empires, the Gothic periods, and the later Renaissance in Italy, France, and England. What we do know cannot impress us favourably, either artistically or hygienically; while the social conditions of the people during these times were such as we could not now endure. Nevertheless, the architecture of that day, as of ours, expressed very fairly the life of the nation; there were then, as now, intrigues, cross currents, and cabals that probably prevented the best being produced; but these influences were part of the nation's life, and had to be expressed in its works.

The constituent parts of the early nations were practically two, a small body of physically and mentally strong men who gathered to themselves wealth and power, and ruled the mass of the people with a rod of iron. These strong men were the fittest to govern and mould the nation, by force of will and brain power they established themselves; and although the type of nation they founded may not meet with the approval of our time, and has long since passed away, their part was a great one in the world's history. What their motives may have been in building great palaces, temples, theatres, colosseums, and baths need concern us very little; just as the motives of a Carnegie or a Rockefeller in establishing Universities and

Libraries should not trouble us now. In old days we find that the ruler, whether Emperor, Pope, or Dictator, employed on his great projects the services of the best architects, sculptors, and painters. Intrigues, artistic and political jealousies, often hindered and marred the complete success of these works; but we have abundant evidence of the direct, close, and cordial relations of the ruler and the artist. This is the greatest stimulus to success, the strong man dictating in general terms his desires, and taking a keen appreciation in the artists' endeavours to embody them in lasting materials. The artists, then as now, would naturally gravitate towards the great centres of life, and the smallness of the nations made the selection of the best artists for these works a comparatively easy matter.

No doubt the works of Phidias, Bramante, Michelangelo, Raphael, and Palladio were known to the people by story and fable, just as those of Rossetti, Sargent, Whistler, Brock, and Bentley are known by means of the newspapers and art publications of to-day. I do not know whether the people, whose lives were either spent in wars or in building these great temples and palaces, living a life of hard and unremitting toil on the barest of necessities, took any interest in these great buildings; perhaps they took no more than the bricklayer of to-day takes in the palace in Park Lane of the South African millionaire, happy only to "knock-off" at the first sound of the foreman's whistle, light his pipe, and wend his way home to the "missus," or to the public-house at the corner which supplies him at present with both the spirit and the art of life. A hard and unlovely existence is the portion of them both; and we also know that when it became so hard as to be unbearable, then the people rose, conquered their rulers, and in blind rage destroyed these buildings, paintings, and sculptures—the primal savage instincts finding an outlet in these paroxysms of destruction, and slowly a new order of civilisation was evolved.

In times such as these has the destruction of so much that was beautiful been merely because of the association of those things with the power against which they fought; or was it because of any hatred of art that lurks in the heart of the natural man? Civilisation is the mother of art, and each phase of civilisation will bring forth a new type of art. We find in the savage tribes the awakening of the spirit of beauty, but their efforts to visualize that spirit are weak and child-like. It is as we ascend the scale of civilisation that we find this spirit growing powerful and influencing the life of the people. We find great architecture is contemporaneous with the best periods in the history of the nations producing it. Force, vigour, intellectual power were necessary to its creation, and no architecture worthy of the name will ever be produced unless these qualities are predominant.

The strength and power in old days were concentrated in the hands of a few men, their aims and ideals were totally different from those of our day. On the one hand they had savage and turbulent tribes to keep in subjection—this probably found occupation for their masterful and often cruel animalism; on the other hand they had a civilisation to build up and improve—this was often an outlet for their love of display, or an ambitious dream of marking their personality on the pages of history so as to excite the wonder and admiration of posterity. Whatever the motives actuating them, the result has been the creation of great works of architecture, painting, and sculpture. The people, living in the shadow of these mighty castles and palaces, without doubt found in them the expression of a dominant force: they were to them the embodiment of that power which ruled their lives and which ruthlessly used them for its own ends. Their attitude towards our art must have been that of fear and awe. Architecture, as a pleasure-giving power, was something divorced from their life: it existed only for the kings and rulers.

We may conclude, therefore, that these great masterpieces of ancient architecture are the direct expression of the nature of the dominant class, and I think that this clearly shows that

the individual mind has, thus far in the world's history, proved the most successful means of producing great art.

During the Renaissance periods we find a new element in the life of the nation; an increasing and powerful middle class has appeared influencing the art of their time. Guilds of handicraftsmen have become larger, the volume of works has increased; the world is gradually shrinking by reason of greater inter-communication, while a considerable body of the people take an active and healthy interest in the arts—in masques, carnivals, processions, plays. We still find, however, that the social and political power is in the hands of the few, and this minority inspires the artist to greatest efforts. The people, no doubt, are more alive to the beauty and grace of the buildings, paintings, sculptures, jewellery and fabrics amongst which they live, and regard them as joyful things, making towards the sum of human happiness; but the evidence of any direct influence of the mass of the people on art is still far to seek. The appreciation by the people of the efforts of the artists may have inspired them to do worthier work; but the work was done at the command of the ruling classes and for their pleasure.

It is a far cry indeed from these days to ours, and the changed conditions of life had to bring about changes in architecture. The continuity of tradition has been broken—guilds, handicrafts, and trades have been abolished or re-organised on lines entirely antagonistic to the old. Distance has been practically annihilated, the whole surface of the globe has been brought near and made clear to our eyes. Time has been conquered, and we live at a pace a hundred-fold faster than life at any previous period in the world's history.

We have seen the results of former phases of national life in the great art of the past; we are responsible for that of the present and shall mould that of the future; let us consider the conditions surrounding us, so that we may know how to work to the greatest advantage. We live under a democratic form of government, whether the figurehead be king, emperor, or president, and the affairs of the state are made a part of the life of the people. The people, within certain limits, are invited to take part in municipal and national government, to carry on national education, and many other important matters. Taking national life first, we find that the suffrage is wide and comprehensive, in some advanced communities extending to man and womanhood suffrage irrespective of property qualifications. In an old country such as ours, it will be found that all sorts of vested interests will prevent the early adoption of the most advanced reforms; they will come late, but they must come, if we are to live as a nation. We have a form of government which is among the best in existence, it gives freedom to the individual within all reasonable limits.

The parliamentary attitude towards architects has always been an unfortunate one, it classes them as a part of the civil service—pretty much in the same category as telegraph operators or Somerset House clerks. The result has been the creation of an idea in the minds of parliamentarians that architecture is not an art at all, but merely consists in the covering of so much land with buildings of a more or less useful kind.

When Palaces for the King have to be built, there is no searching for the master builder, for the man whose imagination can conjure up visions of beauty and mystery; there is no careful inquiry for the evidences of that new talent which might evolve the fitting home, and show the world that the achievements of the past might be rivalled in the present. The civil service servant steps in, and the gentleman who efficiently looks after the drains and the heating apparatus proceeds to design the palace, and the nation accepts it without question, and is asked to see in it a work of art; thus false views are spread abroad and taste is vitiated.

The post offices throughout the country are not one whit better than the palaces, and almost all the railway stations are lost opportunities. Yet these are the very works by which

the national capacity in architecture should be expressed in the highest degree, the greatest artistic power should be employed on the finest subjects. This condition of things is not confined to our own country. In America the same thing has occurred, as far as I can judge by illustrations; the official architecture, as expressed in their Senate Houses, Capitols, and buildings of a like nature, is only dead and uninteresting commonplace, and bears an unworthy comparison with the work done in that country for private individuals. This being the mental attitude of those in authority towards our beloved art, how much less appreciative must be that of the general public, who have been taught to regard bureaucracy as the flower of civilisation.

When you come to analyse it, you will find that the power is in the hands of the few to-day just as much as it was in the old days, but the ideals of the few have changed greatly from the ideals of old.

The controlling force of all social, municipal and parliamentary life is no longer brain power, intellectual acumen, largeness of vision, and high ideals: it may be summed up in the one word "money power," that is the one lever that regulates the movements of the world. Do we wish to educate the young, to make a cultured and capable people? Then we institute a department which appears to think its chief duty is accomplished if it prohibits any new type of building and gets the cost down to the lowest degree. The educational influence of a beautiful building does not seem to be credited, it evidently has no money value; life, as viewed through official spectacles, does not seem to require it, and so the human atoms are treated as so many units of a vast machine, and we think that the mechanical acquisition of a lot of useless knowledge will compensate for the non-awakening of the sense of beauty. Education does not consist of the possession of an exact knowledge of dates or the accumulation of rules, but rather in the awakening of the faculties of reason, of the opening of the mind to the influences of science, art, and nature. To achieve this result it is a matter of little national consequence whether a school can be built for £10 per scholar or £30 per scholar; if it must be put on a commercial basis, it will always repay the nation to form the minds of the young on beautiful surroundings. I am confident no good results will ever be obtained from those huge barracks of buildings where 800 to 1,000 children are herded together, and education is imparted with the mechanical regularity of a piece of clockwork. I think the day is not very far distant when the schools will be small, the classes smaller, the buildings airy, light, cheerful, homelike, and standing in ample playing fields and gardens.

When we turn to the streets of our large towns, how rarely do we find any continuity of design, any evidence that the owner has had the slightest regard for his neighbour on either side of him. I often think, on looking at street frontages, how very rarely must the architect have got his own way. The owner surely must have insisted on having his front to stand away from or kill his neighbour's, making it a sort of permanent advertisement of his business. Something drastic will require to be done at an early date to discourage the idea that commercial buildings are only signboards by day and backgrounds for twinkling electric lamps by night. The advertisement curse is so great that a strong society has devoted all its efforts to try to restrain the advertiser to act within limits that will not outrage artistic taste and will leave our cities and country sufficient attractions to make it possible for us to live there.

In the domain of ecclesiastical architecture, the Nonconformist bodies perhaps represent the bulk of the people; and, so far, the monetary standard seems to be the chief one applied to our art. The Catholics appear to me to be the body having the strongest belief that the artistic and the religious instincts are closely allied, and I am more often pleased to see their churches begun on lines that are noble or majestic, in the hope that some day the heart of the people will be moved to complete them in grandeur and dignity, rather than view many of the

churches and chapels completed at a minimum cost per sitting, and whose every detail speaks of the commercial spirit. My sympathy goes out to the man or body of men who vow to rear a great and worthy church in thanksgiving for some good gift; but I cannot for the life of me understand the desire of people to erect in their vicinity some structure which outrages all taste, merely for the sake of having a place of worship convenient to their doors.

In the matter of municipal architecture we must all regret the growing tendency to place many of those works in the hands of the official surveyor. It is difficult to credit the business men, who usually form the bulk of these Councils, with so little knowledge of the ordinary demands of architectural design, as is evidenced by their placing such works in the already fully employed hands of their hard-worked servants. In any large town, a borough surveyor has, as a rule, such an amount of work in the matter of laying out of new streets, the examination of building schemes, the enforcement of the building by-laws, the sewerage carriage and disposal, the street cleansing and upkeep, and the constant personal attendance on committees, as would make many an energetic and active man quake with fear. I envy them their courage and honour their industriousness; but the very nature of their calling must render it impossible for them to get that quietude, or cultivate that temperament without which architectural design is impossible.

In the minds of the ordinary Councillors a plan is just a plan, and an elevation is only an elevation, and good and bad are equally mysterious to them; but they have a very strong opinion that they can save expense in fees by their method of procedure, and that seems its only justification. Occasionally there are projects so important that they feel some necessity to employ the best talent they can find, and we as a body may be glad that at these times they have come to us for guidance and help. While we have found that these public authorities are often amenable to our guidance in the architectural aspect of their schemes—and for this small mercy we may be thankful—yet in the inception and governing principles of their projects they still prefer their own sweet way.

As an instance of what I mean in this respect, I may say that for a good many years the London County Council have had under consideration the question of building a county hall. This body has a reputation for business-like qualities above all else, and naturally considers the financial aspect of its schemes very closely. Among the sites considered some years back was one on the south side of Trafalgar Square, and formerly part of Spring Gardens; and it was suggested by some Councillors that, by covering this site with shops and placing the county hall over them, sufficient revenue would be obtained to pay the ground rent. Picture a county hall, for a body that is probably only second in importance to Parliament, representing some four and half millions of people, housed over a collection of bootmakers' and butchers' shops, and tell me if our shopkeeping instincts could any further go.

The greatest architectural scheme the same public body has yet instituted is the new street from Holborn to the Strand. The main lines of this street are those urged upon the County Council by the Royal Institute of British Architects, and they are far in advance of any other scheme prepared without the aid of the Institute. It probably required a good deal of tact and diplomacy to get the Council to accept the guidance of the Institute in this matter, and yet one would have thought that the success with which the scheme has been everywhere acclaimed would have proved a strong inducement for the Council to accept the guidance of the Institute in the designing of the architecture of the new street. Instead of this being the case, we find the County Council instituting a competition for designs for street frontages, the motives governing these being as nebulous and hazy as the sun in a fog, while the conditions were such as lowered the architects taking part to the level of second-rate clerks. The competition was foredoomed to failure, and a most complete fiasco it turned out in the end.

If the County Council had possessed the courage to appoint the then President of the Institute to guide, advise, and control the whole scheme for the procuring of designs, I am confident we would have obtained some worthy result; instead of which we now find the street turned over to the tender mercies of the financial and speculating architect, whose exploits as a class are already painfully evident in Shaftesbury Avenue and elsewhere. The representatives of the people are content that the land should be covered by buildings that will assure the payment of the ground rents, and this payment evidently carries with it a right to built almost any kind of structure which has a "stone front." It does not seem to have dawned upon these Councillors that this street will have an artistic influence on future generations for good or evil, and that some serious attempt should have been made to turn it into an influence for good.

In the matter of selling and letting land, and the development of building estates, the claims of architecture are either not recognised at all, or only as a sort of makeweight of no real value, and yet I have a conviction that the shrewd landowner who avails himself of the services of the best and cleverest architects will reap a not unmerited reward in the shape of better houses, better tenants, and increased purchasers. The miles and miles of drearily dull or vulgar cottages and dwellings surrounding almost all large towns are often entirely innocent of the services of any architect, and this is largely because of the idea of the people that architecture means expense, ornament, useless show. When we architects know that the homely cottages and smaller town houses built in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were entirely quiet and satisfying buildings, usually with a minimum of ornament or expensive detail, we should use every endeavour to let the people know that this idea of theirs is a wrong one, and that we also can design a home that will not cost more than the wonderful buildings they now inhabit, with their carved fern cups, incised curly scrolled lintels, their splotches of gravel, rough cast and imitation half-timber work, executed in cement.

I would just lightly touch on the relation of the people to our profession, and in reading the lives of the old masters in architecture one can hardly fail to notice how greatly they were respected and often loved by their fellow-citizens. The feelings which no doubt their talents and uprightness of character inspired in those days have remained to us as one of our best legacies, and no architect of honest purpose and calling will fail to hand them down untarnished to his successors.

As a body of professional men, I think we may hold it as one of our jewels that we have the confidence of those who entrust us with their work and also of those whom we employ to carry out our designs. The people, I think, have ever been ready to believe that our actions are impartial and inspired by fair-mindedness to both parties with whom our relations are so intimate; and I trust that this feeling will grow yet stronger in the years that are to come. I do not think that there is anything which is more likely to foster this spirit in our ranks than that of meeting together on such occasions as these and expressing our views to each other on the thousand and one details of the practice that go to make up the sum of our lives.

The relation of the people to our art is something that vitally concerns us; a spirit of indifference to it is worst of all, and likely to be most harmful to us and our work. Appreciation of our efforts will spur us on to further endeavours, will develop our powers and give us confidence and strength.

All erroneous conceptions of our art must be combated, and its aims clearly set before the people; for this reason I think we, as a body, should endeavour to be much more in evidence in a public sense, that we should use every legitimate means in our power to interest the public in our work. We should drop as much as possible the technicalities of our profession and infuse human feeling into our description of our buildings; we should drop all stock

phrases of thirteenth century Gothic or Greek and Roman classic in our efforts to get at the mind of the people, and rely on that broad basis of human needs which lies at the root of all buildings, which is, in fact, the reason of their existence. We can no more throw away our knowledge of styles or be independent of the influence of the great architecture of the past than the poet can throw away his vocabulary or be independent of the priceless literature which is our great inheritance. Only, in our intercourse with the public, do not let us express ourselves in the archaic language of Chaucer; let us deal with twentieth century work in a twentieth century manner, and we may then hope to enlist the sympathy and co-operation of the great mass of the people.

The danger of isolation or retirement is estrangement from the spirit of the time, and we and our work are at present suffering grievously by reason of our isolation, our work is misjudged or erroneously valued through ignorance of our aims and ideals; false conceptions of the scope of our work have risen up in the minds of many round us, and it is incumbent on us and due to our work to put ourselves right in this matter. Enthusiasm is the spirit which will carry us on and compel others to take an interest in our endeavours—enthusiasm in the face of discouragement and repression. Let men see that there must be something behind the inanimate stone, and brick, and iron, that inspires us with pleasure and satisfies some craving of our nature, and perhaps they also will find a hunger of the mind that must be appeased, will awaken to a sense of the need for beauty in our buildings for all purposes.

A PUGIN STUDENT'S TOUR IN THE COTSWOLDS.

By C. Wontner Smith [*A.*], *Pugin Student* 1902.

WHEN the Council honoured me with the award of the Pugin Studentship last year, and choice of a district to travel in had to be made, I found it a matter of no little difficulty to fix upon a region likely to afford material for the special studies I had engaged to pursue, and at the same time one that had not already been well traversed by former Pugin Students.* At length, on excellent advice, I chose Gloucestershire and the counties immediately surrounding it—a delightful district, which cannot be better described, I think, than as the Cotswold country.

Leaving London on Saturday, 6th July, I made Burford, in Oxfordshire, my first stopping-place. This is the beginning of one portion of the Cotswold district, which stretches from Broadway to Bath, and from Birdlip to Burford, covering about three hundred square miles of undulating hill country intersected by numerous narrow valleys. The highest point of the range is more than eleven hundred feet, but the average altitude would not exceed half that height. It is essentially a stone district, and all the houses are built of local limestone, which lies everywhere within a few inches of the surface.

In bygone times this was the great wool-producing centre. The wool-staplers, owing to the great demand for the Cotswold wool, were a very wealthy class, and the fine manor-houses and churches which are so plentiful in the district are chiefly the outcome of their munificence.

The finest churches were built towards the latter end of the fifteenth century, the most notable perhaps being Northleach, Campden, Cirencester, and Winchcombe. The first thing which strikes one is the solidity and general simplicity of the work; but the more one studies it, the more one appreciates the beautiful proportions of the buildings. The towers are very striking, and, rising to a great height, they seem almost to dwarf the church by their loftiness; but this effect is partly due to the extreme shortness of the naves, a peculiar feature of the district. They are, nevertheless, elegant and graceful in outline. The lower portions are usually plain, with buttresses at the angles, and perhaps small windows in the lower stages. The richness, however, is reserved for the upper portions. The belfry windows usually have traceried heads, and the wall surfaces between, and generally all round the belfry stage, are panelled. Sometimes this treatment is carried down the lower portions, giving an exceedingly rich appearance. The most notable examples are the towers at Evesham and Cirencester. The parapets are often pierced and embattled, and at the corners are pinnacles with crocketed finials. Spires are quite the exception; Burford, I think, is the only church of any note that I saw with one. There are several examples of truncated spires, however. Minchinhampton has a good specimen, and there is one in Gloucester.

The Cotswold builders clearly knew the value of concentration of ornament, for by leaving the lower wall-surfaces comparatively plain the richness of the upper stories is the more emphasised. The naves are in some cases quite short and look out of proportion, especially when compared with the height of the tower. This is due to the narrowness of the bays. Another feature, I think, peculiar to the district is the east clerestory windows. When filled with stained glass they look very well, but in some instances they have a decidedly weak appearance. On plan the nave piers are generally octagonal, the sides being slightly concave, and the capital is widened on the sides from which the arch springs, giving the effect of a small corbel.

Perhaps the chief charm of the district lies in the domestic work. The type of architecture is peculiar, and though perhaps it does not compare in size and grandeur with some of the fine houses in other parts of the country, yet it is full of interest, and above all is in excellent taste. We do not find much domestic work earlier than the sixteenth century, and it continued in the same style right through the seventeenth century with hardly any appreciable alteration. This is probably owing to the isolation of these small towns and villages, cut off as they are from the main highways of traffic. The uniformity of treatment, however, tends to make the work interesting, and though there is often a great sameness in individual features, it never becomes monotonous. From the stately manor-house down to the humblest cottage, admirable taste and originality are displayed. The houses are all built of stone, which lies ready to hand; and though

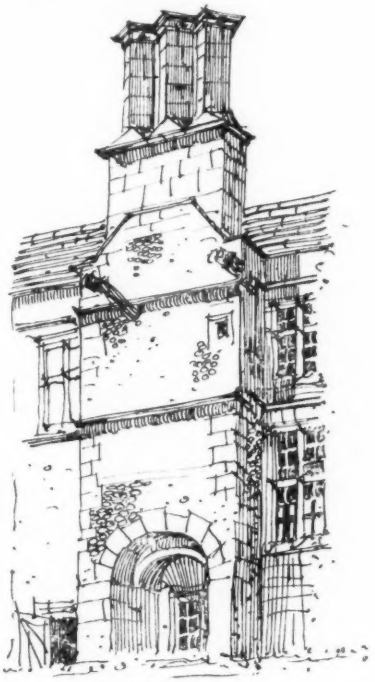
* The Pugin Student is required to make a tour of not less than eight weeks' duration for the purpose of studying mediæval architecture in this country (including buildings designed on mediæval principles down to the end of the sixteenth century), and to furnish the Council with a Paper descriptive of his tour, with sketches, measured drawings, &c. Mr. Wontner Smith's Paper has had to be considerably abridged for the purposes of its present publication; the original, however, is in the Library, where it may be read in its integrity. The illustrations are reproduced from sketches done during the tour.—Ed.

as you go farther north you find examples of half-timber work, stone is the material on which the builders relied; and they knew how to use it and how to get the best effect from its use. The houses are invariably planned one room deep, so that they can be roofed with a single span. The smaller ones are generally oblong, with a gable at each end. If more accommodation were required a wing was added, and this treatment was always carried out, the houses being enlarged by the addition of wings; but the single span roof was always adopted.

The gables, which are high-pitched at an angle of about 55°, are a distinct feature of the style; a hipped roof is practically unknown. The picturesque appearance of the old houses is greatly enhanced by the stone slated roofs which in course of time weather to a beautiful colour. The slates are small, are hung to the battens with pegs, and are generally torched on the under side. They form a most durable roof covering; there are many instances of roofs two or three hundred years old which are almost as good as when first laid. The cresting is usually stone, with a simple roll moulding on top.

The houses are generally of two stories, with perhaps some small rooms in the roof, and the number of windows diminish as they ascend. Thus one finds a four-light window on the ground floor, a three-light on the first floor, and a two-light in the roof, and sometimes a double treatment. The windows have stone mullions either with a plain chamfer or with a hollow or ovolo moulding, and set on the face of the wall. In the case of larger windows the central mullion is thicker with an additional moulding. The sills are sloped inside and out, and do not project from the face of the wall. Over the windows is a hood-mould about 6 inches deep: this feature is invariably employed, being similar to that found in Perpendicular work. It is formed on a right angle hollowed on the lower side, the upper fillet being generally slightly thicker than the lower. Sometimes the moulding runs right across the head of the window in the form of a string. In earlier work examples of leaded lights in diamond panes are to be found, but the general method is square glazing.

The walls are thick and built of solid masonry, the quoins and dressings to the doors and windows being ashlar work, and the general walling random rubble. The doorways, especially in the smaller houses, are quite simple, with moulded jambs, which usually take the form of a double ovolo. The outer one runs up and returns square along the top of the door, and the inner one forms a flat arch. The chimneys are an interesting feature. The lower portions generally project square from the face of the wall on the outside, giving the appearance of deeply recessed fireplaces, and windows are sometimes cleverly introduced, set far back in the wall, the stack arching over them. Above the roof the flues are generally built separately, and set either square or diagonally, rising off a deep weathering, and finished with a moulded cap, generally a simple ogee in section, but sometimes more richly



A TYPICAL COTSWOLD CHIMNEY STACK.

moulded. The gables are high-pitched, with a moulded coping or flat weathering, and are usually finished with a small stone finial.

Owing probably to the difficulty of procuring lead in such out-of-the-way places, the builders managed without it. They were of course helped to a great extent by the construction of their roofs, which are invariably in one span. Even in the valleys no lead is used, but the slates are laid on in a continuous sweep, the courses being carried round even.

There is a marked absence of carving and ornamentation in the Cotswold houses, the builders relying on the proportion and general grouping of their buildings to produce a picturesque effect. This is particularly noticeable in the earlier work. There are examples of carving, such as the coats of arms on the old market hall and almshouses at Campden; but they are rare. The keynote of the whole style is simplicity, and although there is a great sameness and repetition in individual features, much variation was ob-

tained by different combinations of the same forms, thus lending to each building a distinct and separate interest, clearly showing the underlying feeling of true proportion and good taste which these Cotswold architects possessed.

Burford, which is five miles from the nearest station, is a typical Cotswold village, retaining much of its mediæval character. In the old coaching days it was the centre of a thriving district and at the height of its prosperity, but with the introduction of railways the source of its popularity and wealth passed away, and it has gradually lapsed into a quiet and rather sleepy country village. It still, however, retains evidences of its former importance, and is full of interest to the architect.

The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is principally of the Perpendicular period, but has remains of Early English and Norman work. The south porch, perhaps the most distinguishing feature, is a rich example of the Perpendicular style. It is beautifully proportioned, and on the exterior is richly panelled and surmounted by crocketed finials; the niches over the doorway contain the remains of two good figures. The interior is divided into two bays, and has a fine fan-traceried vault. The lower portion of the tower is Norman, and was probably erected about 1150, the first stage above the roof being of the same period. In this the recesses and openings are ornamented with the typical Norman zig-zag. The top stage is Perpendicular, as is also the spire. These later additions to the Norman work considerably affected the stability of the tower, and it was found necessary in the fifteenth century to strengthen the walls inside the church. The Early English work is chiefly confined to the chancel, but there are also some remains in the south aisle. The rest of the church is fifteenth-century work, including the nave, clerestory, and aisles. The nave is 70 feet long and 23 feet wide, and divided into five bays.

I must not omit mention of the Priory, a building of great historical interest, built by Speaker Lenthall in the days of the Commonwealth. It is now little more than a ruin, but clear indications of its former magnificence still remain. One of these is the beautiful private chapel at one end of the house, approached by means of a balcony leading from the first floor into a sort of private gallery. It is Jacobean in character. Practically the outer walls are all that remain of the house, for the interior has fallen into decay with age and neglect. The old ballroom, however, can be seen, with its beautifully modelled plaster ceiling, supposed to be one of the best examples existing of that kind of work.

The place is full of fine old houses and quaint cottages: the old toll-house, or "Tolsey," as it is called, and the almshouses built by the great Earl of Warwick being perhaps the most interesting.

Not far from Burford, on the Lechlade road, is a group of churches of early origin. That at Broughton is the smallest and undoubtedly the oldest. It is quite small, consisting only of a nave and chancel and small south porch. Portions of this church are evidently Saxon, the chancel giving the clearest indication of this character. The east end is quite plain, without buttresses, and has a small two-light window high up in the wall, of Saxon type; and the angles of the wall have the long and short work, a distinguishing feature of the period.

Langford Church, about two miles away, has many points worthy of notice. It is chiefly Transitional in character, the chancel being Early English. The tower, which is central, is undoubtedly the oldest part of the church, for the detail is crude and almost clumsy, this being especially noticeable in the interior. The staircase turret is rather interesting. Placed on the north side it projects from the tower with splayed sides in which small windows are inserted. The west end is Early English, and has two strange buttresses or rather pinnacles rising up on either side of the gable end. They are square at the base and up as far as the parapet, but above the roof level they terminate in circular shafts about three feet in diameter with a conical top and moulded finial. The nave is Transitional, the columns having beautiful carved caps with various forms of stiff leaf foliage, showing great originality in treatment. The chancel is Early English, but has suffered somewhat from restoration. The south porch is of early date, and has a rudely carved crucifix let into the wall on the east side, and a representation of the Crucifixion over the entrance.

At Shipton-under-Wychwood is the beautiful old manor-house, Shipton Court, erected about the year 1603 by the De Lacey family, the founders of Kirkstall Abbey. It is a typical example of the larger houses of the district, with its high-pitched gabled roofs covered with stone slates. The work is simple, but an indescribable charm is given to it by the way in which the various parts are grouped. It is now undergoing extensive restoration.

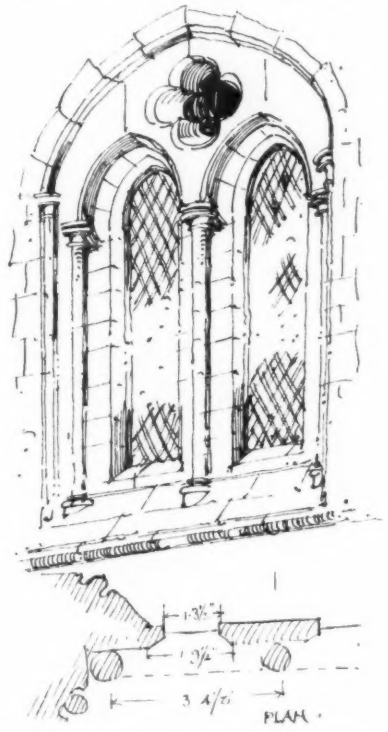
North Leach, about nine miles from Burford, has one of the finest churches in the district. It consists of a nave of five bays, chancel, north and south aisles, south porch, and tower at the west end. The church is principally of fifteenth-century work, but the tower and the south porch probably belonged to an earlier church, and are Late Decorated or Early Perpendicular in character. As in Burford Church, the porch is the most striking feature, being 18 feet 8 inches across at the top and 40 feet to the parapet [see Plate I.]. The work is very ornate but refined, and exhibits the best feeling of the period. The entrance doorway has a pointed arch, and the crocketed hood-mould runs up into a niche in which is a seated figure.

Above this, again, is another niche, also containing a figure, surmounted by a rich traceried canopy. The porch has a parvise over, and the builders overcame the difficulty of providing a flue to the fireplace by making it run up inside one of the buttresses, with an outlet in the top of the pinnacle. The parvise is lighted with small square-headed windows with reticulated tracery. Another interesting and somewhat novel feature is the small bell turret over the central entrance. The church contains the remains of an old stone reredos, a stone pulpit, and several interesting brasses. The latter are mostly memorials of wealthy woolstaplers, by whose aid no doubt the church was erected; the figures are represented with one foot on a sheep and the other on the woolsack. The tower rises to a great height, the lower portion quite plain, but the upper stories richly panelled, and with small window openings pierced in them.

A small church close to Burford, called Swinbrooke, has the remains of some Norman work. In the chancel are some curious old oak seats with carved ends, and some fine monuments to the Fettiplace family. The west front of the tower is recessed to a height of about 30 feet.

After a five days' stay at Burford, I went on to Stow-in-the-Wold, a long and straggling town about six miles to the north. It is situated on a high hill and commands an extensive view of the surrounding country. The church exhibits work of all the styles. The nave is late Early English, and divided into four bays by clustered columns; on the north side the piers have eight clustered shafts, and on the south four and of later date, with moulded capitals and plain chamfered arches. The north and south aisles and the north porch are also in the late Early English style, the windows on the north side being admirable examples of coupled lancets, with a quatrefoil in the tympanum. On the exterior the lancets are recessed between columns, the quatrefoil being pierced through the thicker part of the wall above, and the whole comprised under a single arch without any hood-mould. The north porch contains a small richly moulded window, quatrefoil in shape and very deeply recessed on the inside. The west window of the nave is an extremely beautiful example of the Geometrical period. It is a five-light window, and on the exterior the hood-mould is carried up into a niche in the gable end. The chancel and south aisle are Decorated in style, and the tower, which stands on the south side of the church and opposite the north transept, is Perpendicular, as is also the nave clerestory. The tower is rather plain, especially the lower portion, but has a richly panelled parapet. The east window in the chancel is modern, and was, I think, the work of Mr. Pearson when the church underwent restoration a few years back.

The church is interesting from the fact of its showing in a marked degree the gradual development of window tracery. In the north transept is the simple Early English lancet. The next step is seen in the window of which a sketch is given—two lancet windows under one comprising the arch with the tympanum pierced. Proceeding to the south aisle we find a good example of the Early Decorated window with plate tracery—a small two-light window with lancet-shaped lights, with

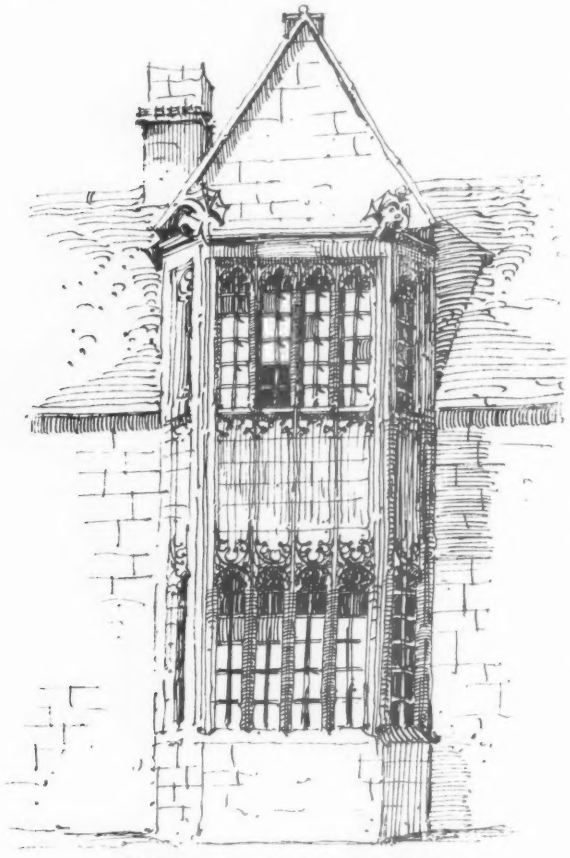


WINDOW IN NORTH AISLE, STOW-IN-THE-WOLD CHURCH.

a quatrefoil in the head, and then the splendid Geometrical window in the west end. The restored east window is an example of the later Decorated or Flowing tracery, and in the aisles we find Perpendicular and also Jacobean windows.

There are some excellent examples of domestic work in the vicinity of Stow-on-the-Wold. The manor house at Upper Slaughter, now used as a farm, contains all the characteristics of the larger houses of the district. It is built on the L plan. The gable treatment of the two principal fronts is very successful, but the back portion is more picturesque. Several of the windows have been built up, probably during the time of the window tax. The kitchen, which has a vaulted stone roof, is supposed at one time to have been used as a chapel.

In the same neighbourhood is the manor house of Upper Swell, of somewhat later date; though quite small it was no doubt of some importance. The detail is more refined and the work is richer than the house at Slaughter. The stone porch, which is Elizabethan in character, stands forward from the main part of the house, and has a small room over it with a gabled roof. On either side of the doorway are two columns supporting a semi-circular pediment in which is a shield, and the frieze is enriched with strap ornament. Inside the house is some most interesting work. On the ground floor the principal room is panelled in oak, with carved pilasters and cornice. On the first floor there is a large room containing a beautiful fire-place and overmantel, Elizabethan work, over 9 feet high, and 6 feet 4 inches across. It is made of stone and takes the form of a projecting hood carried on brackets. The frieze is ornamented with oblong shields in which are marble panels, and the hearth is composed of black and white squares of the same material slightly raised from the floor. Unfortunately, on the tenant—who is a farmer—requesting the landlord to do some repairs the latter sent down a man who gave it a coat of cream paint! The room has a beautiful modelled plaster ceiling divided by means of flat bands of ornament into squares of about 10 feet. In the centre of these squares is a shield, and in the corners a *fleur-de-lis* or other small piece of enrichment. The frieze, about 18 feet deep and modelled in high relief, is composed of a series of winged figures. There is an exactly similar frieze in Chastleton House, some five miles away, which was erected about the same time.



BAY WINDOW, FROM THE PRESBYTERY, CAMPDEN.

My next stopping-place, Moreton-in-the-Marsh, about four miles north, is not a very interesting town, but there are one or two places near well worth a visit. Chastleton House, some three miles away, is a beautiful Elizabethan mansion which was commenced in the year 1603. It is a remarkably fine example of the period, and especially interesting from the fact of its being a complete specimen of the style, never having been altered or added to since its erection. Some portions in the upper stories have never been finished to this day, and it is interesting to see the stone walls with the plastering and panelling incomplete, just as they were left three centuries ago. The house consists of two stories, with attics in the roof, and has an extended frontage with a staircase tower at each end. The interior is a perfect treasure-house of beautiful tapestries, paintings, china, and other works of art. In the hall is a very fine carved wood screen.

Chipping Campden is an old market town situated between two ridges of the Cotswold Hills. It was anciently known as Campdene, and dates back to early Saxon times. The first detailed notice of Campden is in the Domesday Book, when it was evidently a place of some importance. The town attained its greatest prosperity in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, when it became the principal market for wool, which was exported to Flanders. Many rich wool merchants resided here, and much of the architectural beauty of the place at the present day can be traced to that period. It is quite a mediæval town, and, like Burford, retains all its old-world aspect owing to its isolation amongst the hills. It contains many architectural features of interest, the fine old stone house known as The Presbytery being one example. It has a bay window with traceried lights, and gargoyles at the angles.

The church is Late Perpendicular in style throughout, and consists of nave with five bays, aisles, north and south chapels, chancel, and west tower. The latter is 120 feet high from the base to the parapet, and seems somewhat out of proportion to the nave, which is short. The principal features in the tower are the long thin buttresses, which run right up to the parapet. There are three on each face, dividing it up into compartments, of which the two middle ones are wide and the side ones narrow. The tower is divided into four stages, the lowest one plain on two sides; but on the west there is a large traceried window with a small doorway underneath. In order to preserve the Perpendicular treatment the middle buttress is carried down across the window, but quite detached from it, with the exception of a small arch about half-way down butting on to the tracery at the middle transom. The doorway beneath is deeply recessed, the buttresses dividing over the head and continuing down on either side. The upper stages are panelled, and the top one has two three-light windows on each face, the two side lights filled with louvres. At the parapet, which is pierced and embattled, the buttresses are arched over and terminate in pinnacles above the parapet. The angle buttresses are also carried up and treated in a similar way. The whole treatment is quite unusual, but is dignified and in good proportion. The south chapel contains monuments of the Hickes and Noel families, and in the chancel are two fine brasses to the memory of William Greville and his wife. The lectern is dated 1618.

Near the church are the remains of a mansion built early in the seventeenth century by Sir Baptist Hickes, first Viscount Campden, but it was unfortunately burnt down purposely by its owner during the Civil Wars, that it might not be garrisoned by the Parliamentary forces. All that now remains are the east and west pavilions and a small portion—quite a ruin—of the main building and the entrance gates.

Sir Baptist Hickes built the almshouses close to the church (date 1612), to accommodate twelve poor people, and also the old Market Hall, one of the few now remaining, which stands in the main street of the town. It has an open timber roof, and considering its age is in a splendid state of preservation. The hall is no longer used for the purpose for which it was built, but forms an excellent covered playground for the children, who besiege it in wet weather. It is open on all sides, and is two bays wide and five bays long, divided down the centre by a row of columns.

The town is full of quaint old houses, and many of the shops and inns still retain their old signs set in frames of hammered metal work. There are also sundials in great variety and old lead rainwater heads to be seen, and many other features dear to the heart of the architectural student.

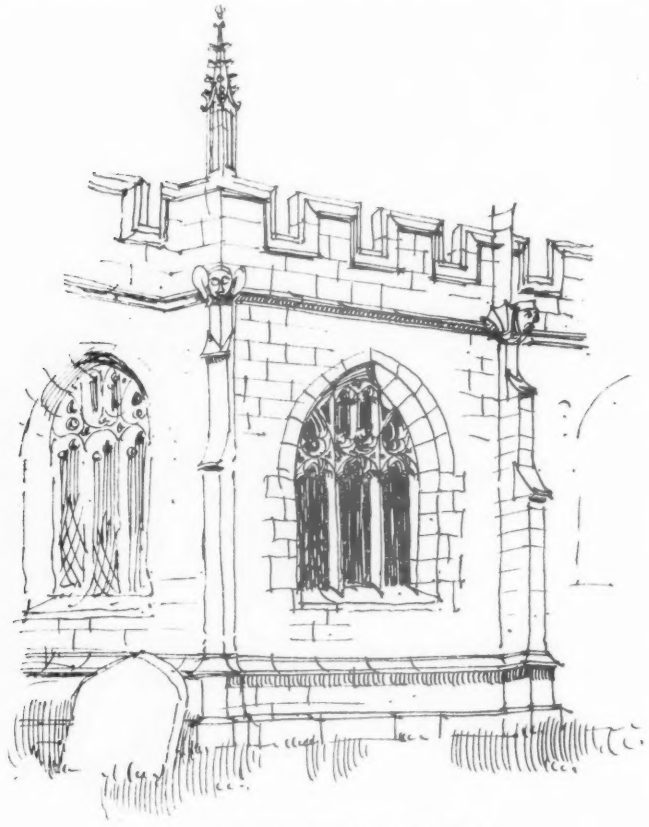
The villages in this district are particularly picturesque, for we are here close to Worcestershire, where timber is much used constructively, and we are not surprised to find the introduction of timber as a substitute for stone. Several of the houses are built of stone up to the first floor level, and above that half-timber work is used, but we still find the stone slated roofs and high-pitched gables. At Lower Quinton there is a house built entirely of timber with the exception of a small stone plinth.

After leaving Campden I proceeded to Evesham, situated on the river Avon. The town, with the exception of the churches and the remains of the old abbey, is not very attractive from an architectural point of view. There are, curiously, two churches, built in the fifteenth century, standing close together in the same churchyard, and also an isolated bell-tower standing due east of the smaller church. Both churches are good examples of Perpendicular work, and are built much on the same lines, both containing on the south side small chapels with beautiful fan-traceried roofs with pendants delicately carved. The smaller church, in which I made a sketch of the baptistery [see Plate II.], was practically a ruin for a hundred years—from 1730 to 1830. The roof had fallen in, and grass grew in the nave and aisles to the height of about two feet. The old verger remembers the time when it was a playground for the boys of Evesham. Fortunately the beautiful roof over the baptistery was preserved from much harm, and stands to-day almost intact. Close by the church are the remains of the old Norman gateway; the original ground level must formerly have been considerably lower than it is now, for the columns under the archway are sunk some way in the ground, and you have to go down several steps into the church. The isolated tower, which is Late Perpendicular in style, is richly panelled all the way up, and much resembles the tower to the church at Cirencester, only it is not so lofty. Portions of the old refectory belonging to the abbey still remain, and there are one or two timber houses close to the churchyard which give one a very good idea of what Evesham must have been in the fifteenth century.

About six miles from the town and also situated on the river Avon is Pershore, with its remains of the well-known Abbey bearing that name. This is, of course, too well known to need description.

At Winchcombe, twelve miles south-west of Evesham, there is a fine fifteenth-century church and a complete example of the style, comprising nave, aisles and chancel, and tower at the west end. The nave consists of eight bays, the last two on either side nearest the chancel screened off to form chapels. There is no chancel arch. The church was built by the monks of the abbey at Winchcombe, of which there are a few remains

east of the chancel. The nave aisle windows are simple three-light windows with traceried heads; there is no hood-mould on the exterior, which has resulted in the decay of the stonework due to water running down the tracery. In several churches in the district I noticed the absence of hood-moulds to the windows and have not been able to account for the omission. The tower has



PORTION OF NORTH AISLE, WINCHCOMBE CHURCH.

a vaulted roof inside, and there are the remains of a carved wood screen in the church.

Other places visited in the neighbourhood of Evesham were the villages of Sedgeberrow, Fladbury, and Broadway; each has its own distinctive architectural attractions. Unfortunately the weather, which up to this time had been none too bright, began to be extremely wet and cold, and it was no uncommon occurrence to have several days' incessant rain. This was very disappointing, as I was prevented from visiting many places I had made up my mind to see.

Continuing my trip from Evesham, my next stopping-place was Tewkesbury, passing on the way the church at Blockley, with its fine Norman doorway in the south porch. I stayed four days in Tewkesbury. It rained every day, and I saw very little of the surrounding country. The town itself is principally famous for its beautiful old abbey, a most impressive structure, and one of the best remaining examples of early Norman work. This was my first visit to the abbey, and I was greatly impressed by the magnificent effect of the Norman nave, with its lofty columns and vaulted roof. The chancel contains some beautiful tombs, and chantry chapels of both the Decorated and Perpendicular periods. I made a measured drawing of the founder's chapel on the north side, which is Early Perpendicular, erected about the year 1397. It is a very rich piece of work, with delicate tracery and wonderfully slender mullions surmounted by a high cresting. The interior has a beautiful fan-vaulted roof. There are several fine old timber houses in the town, many of them with widely projecting gables, which overhang to such an extent as to make one marvel at the constructive abilities of their builders.

Deerhurst, about three miles distant, is renowned for its church, portions of which are supposed to be of very early origin. I refer to the tower and the west and east ends, which are looked upon as examples of Saxon work. The nave is late Norman, the columns having delicately carved caps. The clerestory is Perpendicular, and in the west window of the south aisle are the remains of some good stained glass, supposed to be fourteenth-century. The font is most ancient, being assigned to the ninth century. In 1884 a small Saxon chapel was discovered about a hundred yards from the church; it had been used as a farm-house, and is still attached on one side to an old cottage.

After leaving Tewkesbury I went through Stroud to a small village called Painswick, about three miles distant. This is one of the many charming Cotswold villages, full of old stone houses with mullioned windows and gabled roofs. The church of St. Mary, a large building in the Perpendicular style, has been a good deal

modernised. The churchyard is renowned for its rows of beautiful yew trees, and some excellent monuments, the work of one man, a resident of Painswick, who is himself buried there. They are of seventeenth-century date and exhibit great diversity and originality in design. The man appears to have had a great reputation, as his work is found in several places in the district.

There are some interesting old houses to be seen, the most important of which is known as "The Court House," which Charles I. is said to have made his headquarters. The date over the porch is 1604. It is in the usual style of the Cotswold house, and built entirely of stone. It is planned in the form of the letter H; the Court-room, a large room panelled in oak, with a fine stone fireplace, occupying an entire wing.

About three miles from Stroud is Minchinhampton, with its fine church, or rather the remains of one, for all that is now left of the old fabric are the two transepts and the tower, the nave and chancel being comparatively modern. Of the two transepts the south is by far the finer [Plate III.]. It is a beautiful piece of architecture of the fourteenth century. It was erected in the year 1358 to the memory of a knight named De la Mere and his dame; their effigies lie under the south window in canopied niches. This window, which has five lights and almost entirely fills up the south wall, is a remarkable example of Geometrical tracery, and one of the finest Decorated windows I have seen. The tracery takes the form of the rose pattern, and has only one plane; the mullions are narrow, and the jambs are not moulded but simply splayed. Amongst other unusual features are the stone roof trusses supporting the roof itself, which is composed of thin slabs of stone. These stone trusses are constructed much in the same way as wooden ones. It is stated—with how much truth I cannot say—that when this transept was built the carpenters refused to put up the roof, so that the masons were obliged to do it themselves.

At Minchinhampton there is a quaint old market hall, somewhat of Flemish character. This may be accounted for by the fact that the town was originally of Flemish settlement. It was once renowned for its nunnery, Minchinhampton meaning "a place of the nuns."

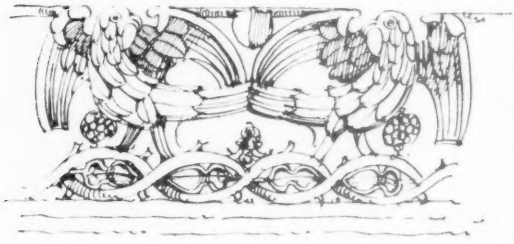
Not far from Minchinhampton is Avening, which possesses a very fine old Norman church, now undergoing extensive restoration. It is cruciform on plan, with a central tower, and consists of nave, chancel, north and south transepts, and north aisle. The principal portion of the church is of the late Norman period. The present porch—which I believe it is proposed to remove—is built up against a very fine Late Norman doorway with richly carved caps and shafts. The church contains some remains of Norman carving built into the walls and discovered during the restoration. Where they came from or what was their original use is a matter of conjecture, but they are thought to be part of a font or reredos.

Tetbury, about ten miles from Stroud, contains little of interest but its picturesque old market hall and a few interesting old houses. There is a beautiful old house close by called Chavenage, which, besides its picturesque appearance externally, contains some fine wood panelling, old tapestries, and painted glass. It is built on the plan of the letter H, the entrance being in the centre of the house. The hall, lighted by long mullioned windows, runs up two stories and has a gallery at one end. Oliver Cromwell and General Ireton are said to have stayed here, and visitors are shown the rooms they occupied. The chapel, which stands quite apart from the house, is small and of fourteenth-century date. Some of the windows in the house are interesting, and no doubt formerly belonged to some other building. Over the entrance porch is a small room called "the priest's cell," which has a two-light window with a traceried head, and there are other examples of quite a Gothic type.

Leaving Tetbury, on the Dursley road, you pass Beverstone, with its ruined castle, of which very little now remains, but sufficient to show what a grand old place it once was. The two chapels are in a very fair state of preservation. The larger one on the first floor has a groined roof with moulded ribs, and also contains a piscina and a richly-canopied sedilia. Both these chapels are situated in one of the old towers.

Cirencester, my last stopping-place, is the centre of a splendid district. The parish church is a fine building, principally of the Perpendicular period, but with remains of earlier work, one of the bays of the south chancel aisle being Norman and the chancel Decorated. It consists of nave, north and south aisles, chancel and chancel aisles, south porch, and west tower. The nave and aisles are Perpendicular, the former of six bays. The aisles are unusually wide, and are almost as high as the nave itself, and have clerestory windows as well as the nave. The chancel has a double aisle on the north side, the one nearest the chancel having a beautiful fan-traceried roof. The most interesting portion of the church is the Trinity Chapel, which is situated on the north side, divided from the aisle by a stone screen [Plate IV.]. This is a beautiful piece of Early Perpendicular work, the detail being very rich, especially on the exterior, with its carved and crocketed finials and projecting gargoyles. The north side is entirely filled up with windows divided by buttresses. Some portions of the interior of this chapel have been restored. A specially interesting feature is the fifteenth-century stone pulpit built into one of the nave piers. The wooden screens, though much restored, are very fine examples of late work; the one in the nave

has a peculiar cresting composed of birds treated in a conventional manner.



CRESTING ON WOODEN SCREEN, PARISH CHURCH, CIRENCESTER.

A word must be said about the south porch and parish room over, which from the outside looks as though it were part of the church. It was built as a kind of town hall, and has been used as a magistrate's court, though not for many years. It only passed into the hands of the church after a fierce controversy as to its rightful ownership. It is Late Perpendicular in style, and the work is very rich, but is now greatly decayed, especially the upper portions. It contains some interesting woodwork in the shape of panelling and seats of the Elizabethan period. The south porch of the church which forms part of this interesting building has a beautiful fan-vaulted roof.

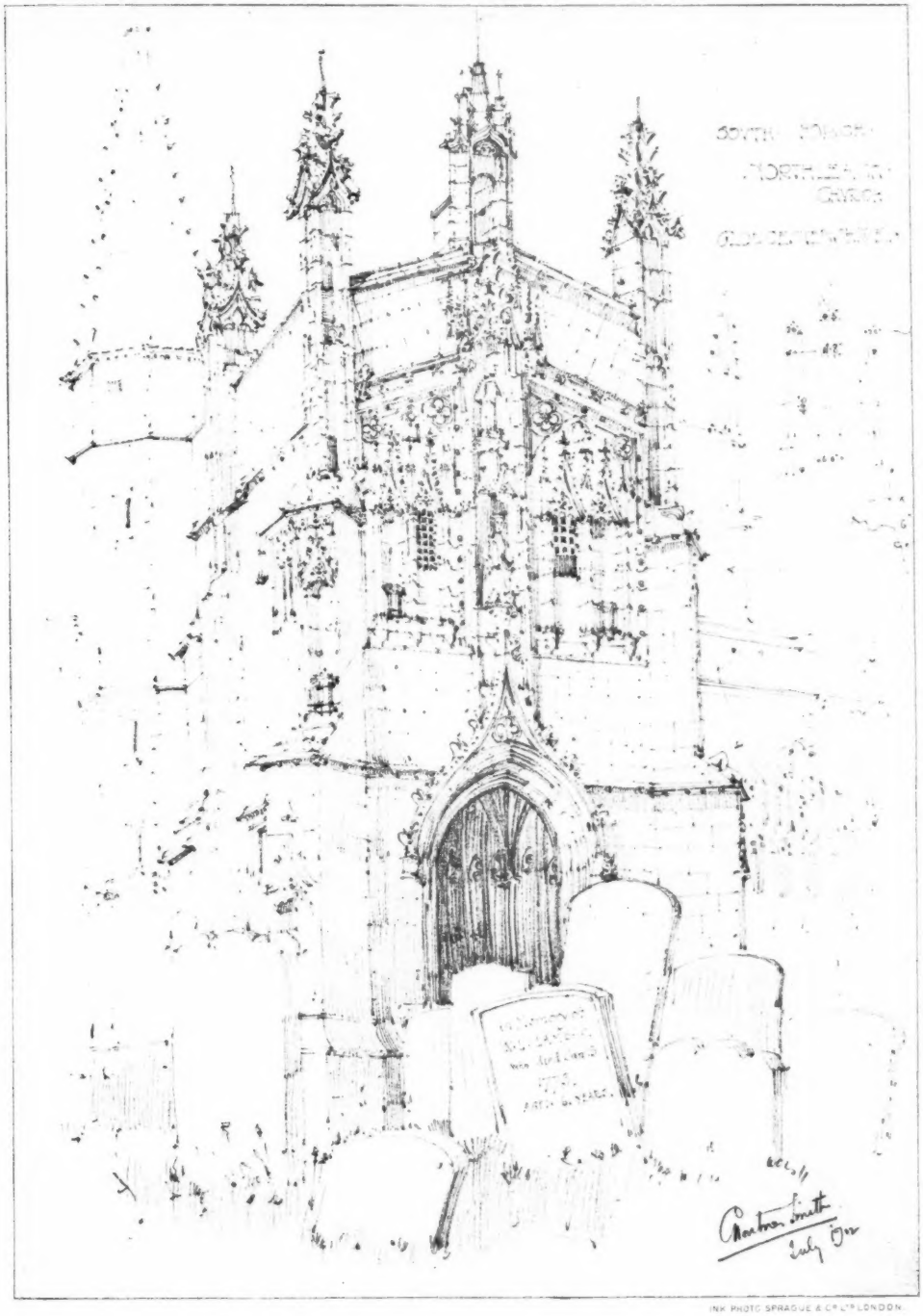
Fairford, about eight miles from Cirencester, is chiefly famous for the beautiful stained glass in the church. This, of course, is extremely fine and too well known to need description. There are various reports as to its origin. Some say it was the work of Albert Dürer, and was captured at sea from the Flemish. It is also said that the church was built on purpose for the glass, but there is nothing to warrant such a supposition. It is undoubtedly the work of a Flemish artist, and that it has remained in such a perfect condition to this day is accounted for by the fact that at the Reformation it was buried or hidden away and only brought back when all fear of its probable destruction had passed away. The church is chiefly of the Perpendicular style: the lower portion of the tower in the centre of the church is probably earlier. The interior of this tower is especially nice, with its groined roof rising from shafts in the angles. In the choir are some old wooden stalls and misereres and several fine screens. Here, again, the crestings show great originality in treatment, and are well worthy of study.

On the Fairford road there is a small hamlet called Maisey Hampton. It has a simple cruciform church of thirteenth-century date, with a beautiful Geometrical window in the east end.

Bibury, a village some seven miles from Cirencester, is a most attractive place. It is situated on the river Colne, a famous trout stream, which winds through the centre of it. The village contains many old houses and picturesque cottages besides the stately manor which bears its name. The church, also, is of considerable interest. It is of Norman foundation; there is a beautiful doorway of that period on the north side in a splendid state of preservation. The north aisle, which has some good windows, is fourteenth-century work. The tower, which is situated at the west end of the north aisle, is very plain, with nothing at all distinctive about it. The south aisle is Early English and the nave Transitional, with carved capitals to the columns. Bibury Court, a charming manor house, is close by the church and on the banks of the Colne. Its date is 1633, but it has been added to considerably at various times, and in consequence is delightfully irregular. At Allington, quite close, is another fine house of about the same date.

Barnsley, in the same district, contains a small church founded in the Norman period, consisting of nave, aisle, chancel, and west tower. The tower is quite unique, having almost the character of domestic work. It is devoid of buttresses, and the parapet on each side is raised in the form of a gable, with a small finial at the apex. There is a considerable batter to the tower all the way up, and the windows are square-headed.

With Cirencester my tour came to an end, and I returned to London at the beginning of September, after an absence of over two months.



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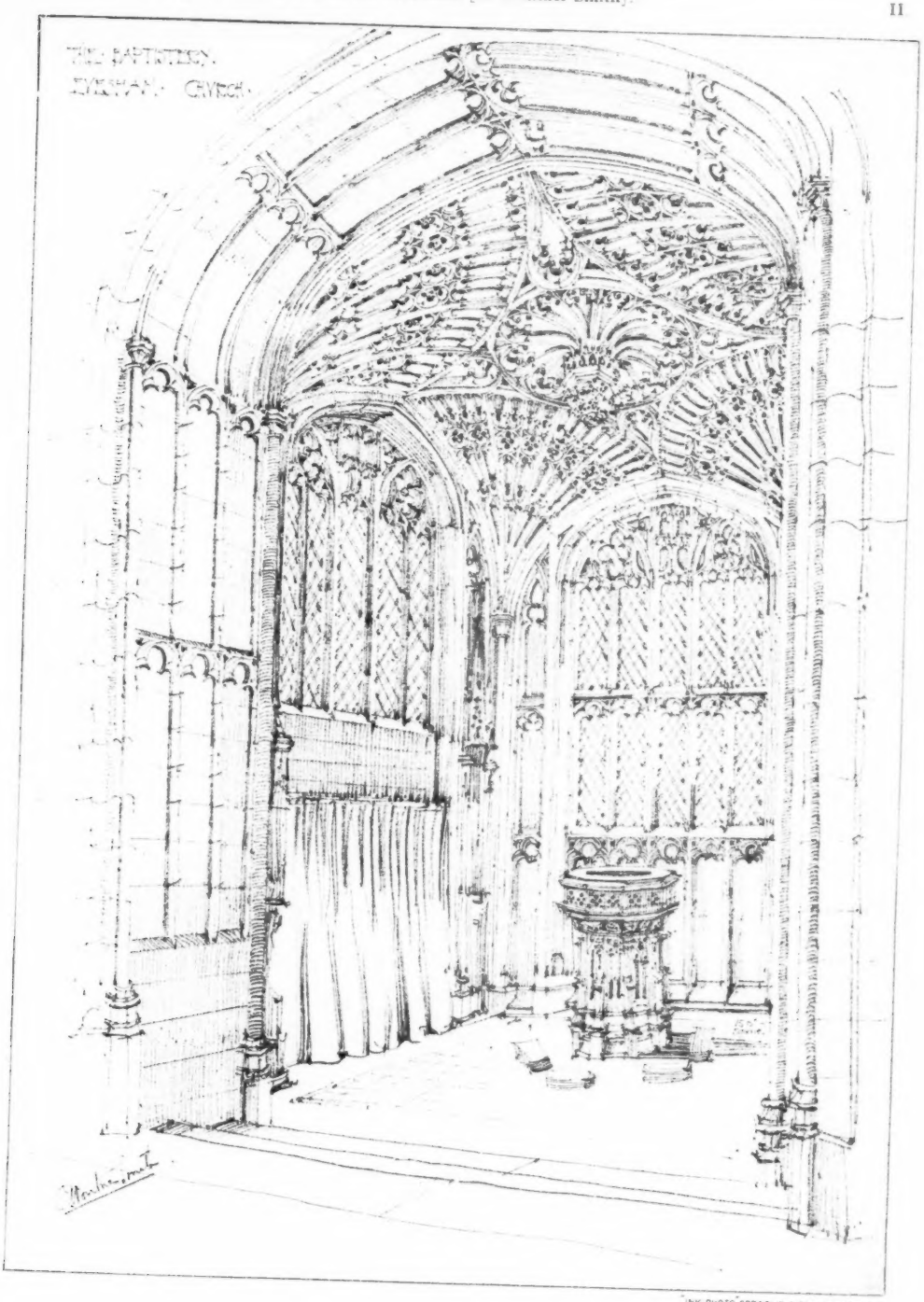

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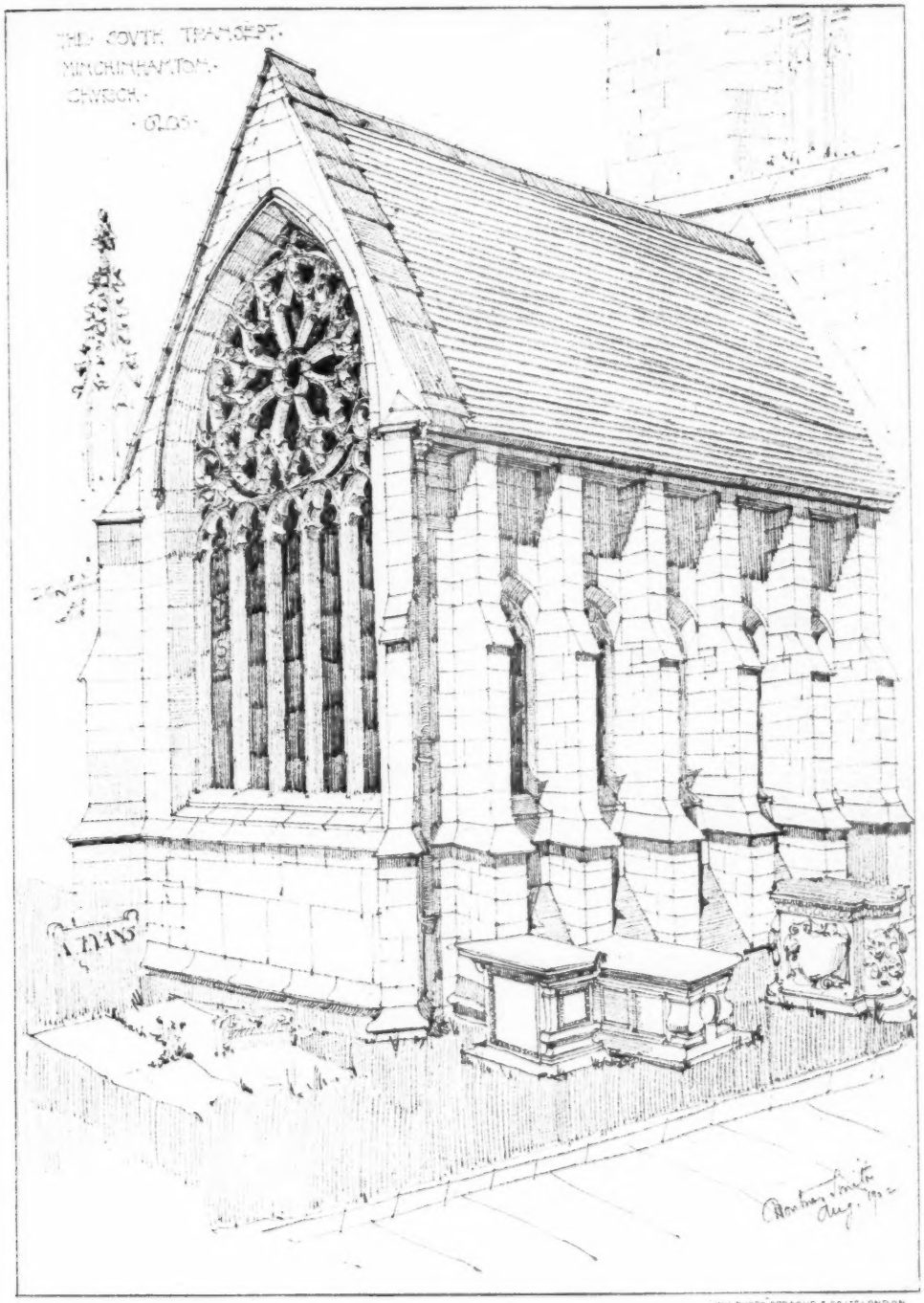

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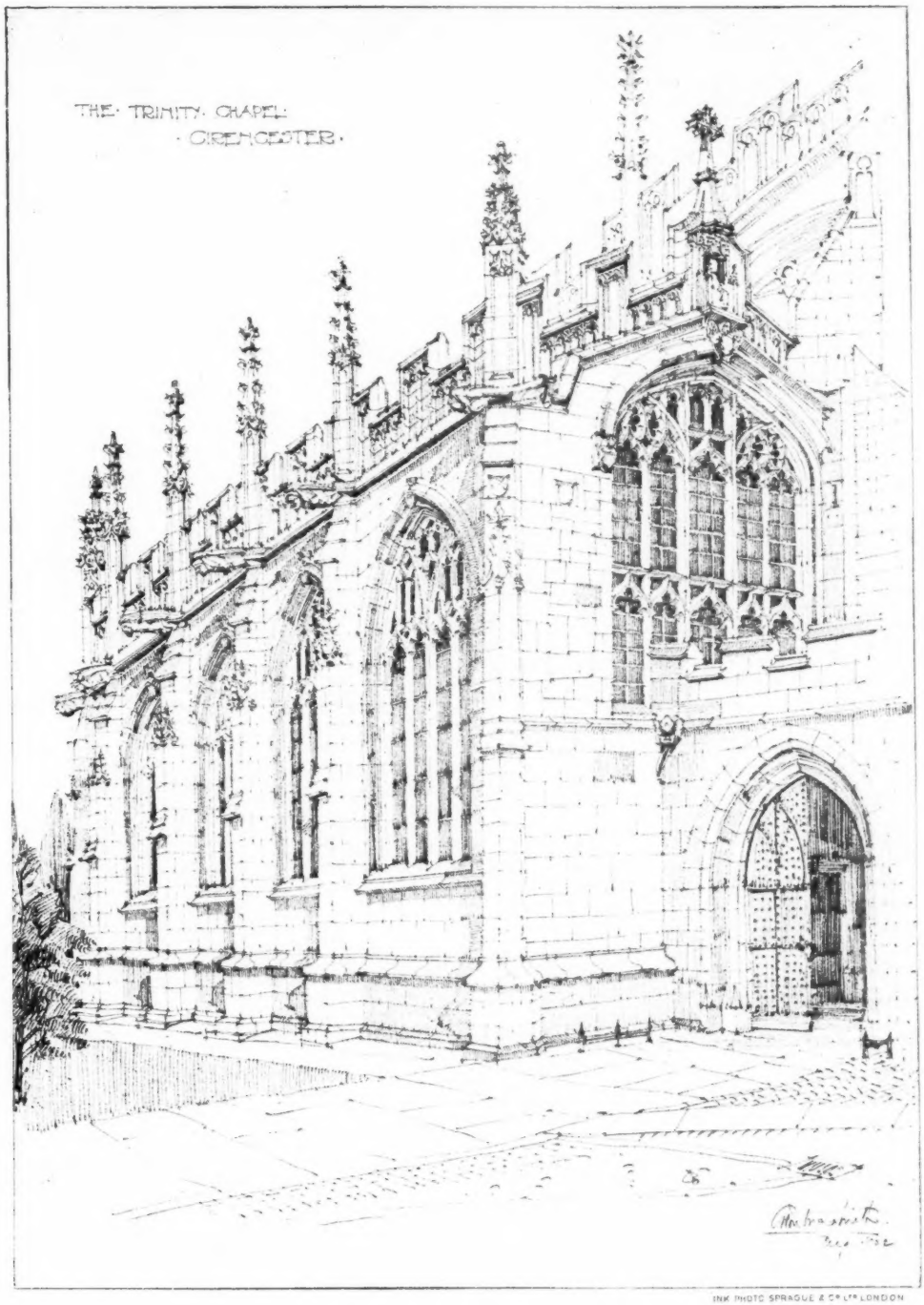

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9, Conduit Street, London, W., *7th March* 1903.

CHRONICLE.

The Royal Gold Medal 1903.

At the Special General Meeting held on the 2nd inst. for the election of the Royal Gold Medallist for the current year, the Council's selection of Mr. Charles F. McKim for the honour was very cordially agreed to. The President, in putting the motion from the Chair, said that Mr. McKim, the distinguished American architect, was probably known by name to all members of the Institute. He was a pupil of M. Honoré Daumet, of Paris, and studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. In 1870 he was elected a member of the Architectural Association of London. He is senior member of the well-known firm of Messrs. McKim, Mead, & White, of New York, and President of the American Institute of Architects. On the table in the Meeting-room lay a number of volumes of *The American Architect* containing illustrations of the works executed by Mr. McKim, either alone or in collaboration with his partners. The following are a few of these buildings:—New York University; Columbia University, New York; Public Library, Boston, which was decorated by Mr. Sargent and Mr. Abbey; The Harvard Union, Harvard University; Medical College, Cornell University; Symphony Club House, New York; Bowery Savings Bank, New York; Washington Arch, New York; Battle Monument, New York; Walker Art Gallery, Brunswick; Sherry's Hotel and Restaurant, New York; The Judson Memorial Church, New York. Anyone looking at the illustrations of these buildings, said the President, would see that Mr. McKim's work was of a very exceptional character and of a very high standard indeed. The Boston Library and the Columbia University Library are described and illustrated in the late Mr. Brydon's Paper on "Public Libraries" [Journal, 25th Feb. 1899]. Of the Boston Library Mr. Brydon says, "The whole of the building is a most careful study of modern Renaissance thoughtfully and lovingly carried out, and reflecting the greatest credit on Mr. McKim, its architect."

The London Building Acts Amendment.

At the conclusion of the ordinary business before the Meeting of the 2nd inst. a discussion took place on the London Building Acts Amendment Bill which it had been understood the London County Council proposed to bring before Parliament during the present Session. In the last week of December a copy of the Bill had been sent to the Institute by the County Council with the intimation that they would be pleased to receive any observations thereon which the Institute desired to make, but that such observations must reach the County Council as early as possible in January 1903. The Council of the Institute placed the matter forthwith in the hands of the Practice Committee, who have since held several meetings on the Bill, both in full Committee and by Sub-Committee. An extension of time in which criticisms of the Bill might be sent in was afterwards agreed to by the County Council. The Practice Committee having reported to the Council the result of their deliberations and submitted a list of amendments affecting nearly every section of the Bill, the Council decided to bring the matter before the General Body at the Meeting of the 2nd inst., and invited Mr. Douglass Mathews, Chairman of the Practice Committee, to give the Meeting an idea of the provisions of the Bill, and also of the amendments proposed by the Practice Committee.

On Monday the 2nd inst. the following announcement appeared in *The Times*:—

> At to-morrow's meeting of the London County Council the Parliamentary Committee will submit a proposal for the abandonment, at any rate for the present Session, of the London Building Acts (Amendment) Bill, to which much opposition has been shown in the City and elsewhere. In their report upon the matter they state that they have given most careful attention to the course to be adopted with regard to the Bill, which has now been read a first time in the House of Commons. Instructions to them to promote the Bill were given by the Council on November 4th last, and time did not permit of their ascertaining the views of the various authorities and bodies concerned before submitting the Bill to the Council for approval. They have not up to the present been furnished with the views of some of the more important technical bodies; but from such observations as they have received and from information that has reached them from various quarters, they regret that they are driven to conclude that the Bill would, if proceeded with in Parliament, encounter very considerable opposition. They are advised that many of the suggestions which have been received would form bases for useful amendments of the Bill in detail, and that had time permitted the Bill might with advantage have been in some particulars differently drafted. It is with regret that they arrive at the conclusions embodied in the recommendations which they submit concerning a measure for the protection of human life and property from the perils of fire; and, in doing so, they are influenced by the knowledge that the Council would, with more time at its disposal, be in a position, if it adopted their recommendations, to place before Parliament in the Session of 1904 a more complete and perfect measure. It is important that any

steps in the direction of withdrawing the Bill should be taken without delay, in order that such authorities and bodies as may wish to take action with regard to the Bill may not be put to any unnecessary expense or trouble. They accordingly recommend:—"(*a*) That, notwithstanding any previous resolution of the Council, a Bill to amend the London Building Acts be promoted in the next Session of Parliament instead of in the present Session, and that the London Building Acts (Amendment) Bill, 1903, be not further proceeded with; (*b*) that the Bill as at present drafted be referred to the Building Act and Parliamentary Committees with a view to their advising the Council, after consultation with such persons and authorities as may be desirable, as to the ultimate form the Bill should assume." From this recommendation Mr. Radford, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, dissents, and intends to move an amendment instructing the Committee to proceed with the Bill in the present Session.

At the Meeting of the County Council on the 3rd inst. the proposal to drop the Bill for the present Session and to bring it forward next Session was agreed to, and it was resolved that the Bill, as at present drafted, be referred to the Building Act and Parliamentary Committees with a view to their advising the Council, after consultation with such persons and authorities as may be desirable, as to the ultimate form the Bill should assume.

THE PRESIDENT, in opening the discussion at the Institute last Monday, referred to the proposed withdrawal of the Bill, but decided that they should proceed with the discussion already arranged for. Such consideration of the Bill, he said, would not be at all wasted, for there was no doubt that some measure of the kind would be brought forward another time, and it was very desirable that members should be informed as to what was proposed. It was extremely difficult—at least he found it so—to gather from the Bill exactly what was meant. Mr. Douglass Mathews, however, knew all about it, and would explain it and call their attention to some of the alterations which the Practice Committee proposed. Those proposals were still in a liquid state, so that they merely wanted at that meeting to discuss them in a friendly way: they might agree with the Practice Committee, or they might suggest a different view on some of the points. At any rate he hoped that all those who were interested would join in the discussion, and that some sort of idea might be arrived at as to what, in the opinion of the Institute, was desirable in order to increase the restrictions in the erection of buildings so as to prevent the spread of fire and the destruction of human life and property.

MR. J. DOUGLASS MATHEWS [*F.*] said that the Professional Practice Committee had held some eight or nine meetings specially to consider this Bill; they had, in fact, gone through it, not only line by line, but word by word. There had been a strong feeling among them at first that the Bill was of so drastic a character and so absolutely impracticable that the best thing to do was to leave it alone altogether. They ultimately decided, however, in view of the fact that the Bill was being promoted by the London County Council, to give the matter their serious consideration, and they had asked the Council of the Institute for their comments. The Committee had therefore drafted a number of amendments to the Bill, the more important of which he would as briefly as possible lay before them. If the Bill was to be introduced into Parliament this year as drawn, it was of the utmost consequence that certain of its clauses should be strongly opposed, in order that the measure, when passed, might prove a workable one. If, on the other hand, the Bill was to be withdrawn, and to come up again next year, then the labours of the Practice Committee would not have been in vain, as they would probably be useful in passing another Bill. The feeling at present was that the Bill had not had that consideration and care in drafting which might have been expected in a measure of such importance. Their first objection was to the definition of the word "owner" as given in section 5 of the Amended Bill—viz. "The expression 'owner,' except as used in section 24 of this Act, means the person for the time being receiving the rack-rent of the premises in connection with which the word is used, whether on his own account or as agent or trustee for any other person, or who would so receive the same if such premises were let at a rack rent, but where used in the said section the said expression shall have the same meaning as is assigned thereto by section 5 of the Act of 1894." It would seem by that and what followed that the owner was to be responsible for everything that might take place in connection with his building. He was not only to carry out the requirements of the Act, but to be responsible for the maintenance of means of exit to staircases, or whatever it might be, after the building had passed out of his hands. The *occupier* should be responsible for keeping the means of exit clear, and for all acts that concern him and those acting under him. So far as the building construction was concerned, the definition of "owner" should stand; but if it were a matter of maintenance, the occupier should be held responsible. A matter of importance in connection with this definition, which no doubt had weighed very much with the London County Council, was that in cases where warehouses and factories were intermixed under the Factories and Workshops Act, there was nothing to enable the owner to continue an exit through a warehouse. Consequently the persons occupying the upper floor would be cut off from the means of escape. That definition of "owner" would regulate a great many of the clauses; but it should be made clear that the owner should be responsible for his part, and that the occupier should be responsible for his. As regards the expressions "high building," "new high building," and "existing high building" in the interpretation section (5), the Council of the Institute suggested that instead of 50 feet the limit under the Act should be 60 feet.

Section 6, a very important section, reads as follows: "Every new high building shall be provided to the satisfaction of the Council with such means of escape therefrom in case of fire for persons occupying or employed or dwelling in or resorting to or frequenting the upper storeys of such building as shall be reasonably practicable, and the owner shall at all times thereafter to the satisfaction of the Council keep and maintain all such means of escape in good condition and repair and in efficient working order and free from all obstructions." The Committee recommend that that section should be amended so as to read: "Every new high building shall be provided to the satisfaction of the Council with such means of escape therefrom in case of fire for persons occupying or employed or dwelling in the upper storeys of such building as shall be reasonably practicable by internal or external staircases, balconies outside windows, access to roofs of contiguous premises, or other means of exit; and the occupier shall at all times thereafter to the satisfaction of the Council keep and maintain all such means of escape in good condition and repair, and in efficient working order and free from all obstructions. Before any new high building is commenced there shall be submitted to the Council plans showing such proposed means of escape, and the Council shall, within fifteen days of lodgment, express their approval of, or dissent from, the same, giving their reasons for such dissent. In case the applicant shall be dissatisfied with the Council's decision,

he may appeal to the Tribunal of Appeal." First of all, it is considered very undesirable to retain the words "or resorting to or frequenting the upper storeys of such building"; therefore, it is proposed to omit those words. Then it was desired that some period should be fixed so that the delay which was often laid to the County Council might not occur in this case. Another suggestion was that there should be incorporated in the Act some idea as to what would be likely to be required as means of escape; therefore it is proposed to insert the words "by internal or external staircases, balconies outside windows, access to roofs of contiguous premises, or other means of exit." The Committee suggest that instead of differences being settled by arbitration, as laid down in the First Schedule, power should be given in cases where there is a difference with the County Council, to refer all matters to the Tribunal of Appeal as at present constituted by the Act.

In Section 8, that before revoking any certificate the Council should give seven days' notice of their intention to revoke, the Committee proposed that subsection i. should read as follows:—"If by reason of any change in the use made of any new high building or any part thereof, or if by reason of any addition to or alteration of any such building, the number of persons dwelling or employed in the upper storeys thereof, or the risk of fire is increased, the Council by resolution shall be at liberty, after seven days' notice, to revoke any certificate which they may have granted in respect of such building. The occupier of such building shall, before any such change, addition, or alteration is made, give notice thereof in writing to the Council."

Section 10, subsection (1): "The owner of every existing high building (other than a dwelling-house occupied as such by not more than one family) shall on or before the first day of January one thousand nine hundred and five submit to the Council particulars in writing accompanied by detail plans and drawings of such means of escape from such building as then exist and of the means (if any) proposed to be provided." The Committee suggest that this subsection shall be altered to read as follows:—"The owner of every existing high building (other than a dwelling-house occupied as such by more than one family, and warehouses and other buildings where manufacture is not carried on or persons employed in sedentary occupations, above sixty feet in height from the street) shall, on or before the first day of January one thousand nine hundred and five, submit to the Council particulars in writing, accompanied by drawings to a scale of one-eighth of an inch to the foot, clearly showing such means of escape from such building as then exist, and of the means (if any) proposed to be provided." This clause has been much discussed. The desire of the Bill is to secure to people employed in the building ample opportunity of escaping in case of fire. Many buildings, such as bonded warehouses, or warehouses for the storage of iron, paper, &c., were practically worked by one man, who had command of three or four floors; and there was no special provision needed for them; but provision should be made for persons actually employed in a sedentary occupation, such as clerks working in upper storeys, so that proper means of escape should be afforded them, as it was quite possible that a fire might occur in the lower part of the premises, and they not be aware of it. That exemption, they thought, would get rid of a great deal of the opposition to this clause. The Committee also suggest the addition of the following words to subsection 2: "the details of construction of any new means of escape to be approved by, and carried out to the satisfaction of, the District Surveyor," as tending to avoid delay. Subsection 5, they suggest, should read as follows: "Any such difference of opinion as aforesaid shall, at the desire of either party, expressed by notice in writing to the other of them within fourteen days after such difference of opinion shall have arisen, be referred to the Tribunal of Appeal. The decision of such Tribunal shall be binding on the parties, and the conditions and requirements imposed or made by the Council shall be confirmed or amended or discharged in accordance with such decision." Subsection 6: "If the owner shall be of opinion that the occupier or occupiers of the building ought to bear or contribute to the expense of providing such means of escape as aforesaid he may either before he executes the work or within six months after he has executed the same apply to the County Court having jurisdiction where the building is situate, and the Court may, after hearing the occupier or occupiers or (if after being duly summoned he or they shall fail to appear) in his or their default, make such order upon the application as the Court may deem just and equitable." Here was an illustration of the difficulties that would constantly arise between owner and occupier if the owner were to be held responsible for every infringement of the Act.

The Committee's suggested addition to Section 11 was: "save that the Council may have the power to extend the height for an 'existing high building' from sixty feet to any dimension up to seventy feet."

Section 12 was a very important section: "Every new building (not being a dwelling-house occupied as such by not more than one family) in which sleeping accommodation is provided for more than thirty persons, or in which more than thirty persons are employed." It was proposed for the words, "or in which more than thirty persons are employed," to substitute "above the ground floor." In Subsection 2 the Committee proposed to strike out the words "or resorting to or frequenting," and in the beginning of the next paragraph to insert the word "occupier" instead of "owner." In Subsection 4, instead of "or in which more than thirty persons are employed," to substitute "above the ground floor," and to omit the words "or in which more than thirty persons are employed." This confined the operation of this clause to sleeping accommodation.

Passing over a few alterations more or less contingent on previous amendments they came to Section 17. Subsection (2), dealing with separate sets of chambers or offices, the Committee suggested should read as follows: "Separate sets of chambers or offices or rooms, tenanted or constructed or adapted to be tenanted by different persons, shall, if contained in a building exceeding forty feet in height" (the Bill said twenty feet) "and ten squares in area, be separated, so far as they adjoin vertically, by partitions constructed of fire-resisting materials, and so far as they adjoin horizontally by floors or arches constructed of fire-resisting materials; and if such sets of chambers, offices, or rooms are contained in a building exceeding twenty-five squares in area, all the floors throughout and the principal staircases and enclosures of same shall be constructed of fire-resisting materials." This clause would be very strongly contested, as it would affect an enormous number of high office-buildings both in the City and in Westminster. To Subsection 4 the Committee recommend that the following should be added: "Unless the floors be constructed throughout of incombustible materials not less than six inches thick, and the principal stairs and the enclosures of same be of incombustible materials." In Subsection 5, "and all passages, staircases and other means of approach from the *street* to the part used as a dwelling-house shall be enclosed with and constructed throughout of fire-resisting materials other than wood to the satisfaction of the District Surveyor." Instead of the word "street," it was proposed to substitute "front door (provided such front door be set back not more than five feet from the front of the building)." It often happened that the upper part of a house was let for a dwelling, and the ground floor perhaps for a shop. If the clause stood as drafted, two doors would be necessary, and in many places in narrow-fronted buildings these

would take up a considerable portion of the frontage. It was therefore suggested that in the case of a lobby not more than five feet from the front the end of the fire-proofing should stop at the door leading to the upper part. Subsection 6 was another awkward clause. If the frontage of a building did not exceed 20 feet the passage or staircase was to be 2 feet 6 inches wide; exceeding 20 feet but not exceeding 30 feet, it was to be 3 feet wide; and exceeding 30 feet it was to be 3 feet 6 inches wide. Nobody, he thought, desired to have a 2 feet 6 inches passage in case of fire, and therefore the Committee suggested that the subsection should read as follows:—"All passages and staircases, and other means of approach referred to in the last preceding subsection of this section shall be not less than 3 feet wide." In Subsection 8—another much-debated clause—it was provided that at every 40 feet of frontage there should be an additional staircase, and, if necessary, an entrance. It would be seen at once that such an arrangement would not act. Supposing a building with 100 feet frontage to the street and 40 feet deep, it would necessitate three entrances in the 100 feet. Supposing, on the other hand, it was exactly the same size building, but had a 40 feet frontage and a depth of 100 feet, one staircase would suffice. That would be an absurdity, and it was therefore suggested that the frontage limit should be taken out altogether and a restriction placed as to the area, say of fifty squares

In Section 21, dealing with penalties, the Committee suggest the insertion of the words "or occupier" after "owner." But it was desired as far as possible that everything should be in the hands of the Tribunal of Appeal, and that, although they might not have the power to inflict a penalty, it should be inflicted on the report of the Tribunal of Appeal to the Petty Sessions.

Section 22: "For the purpose of complying with the provisions of the sections of this Act of which the marginal notes are," &c., &c., "it shall be lawful for the owner of any building not being the occupier thereof, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary contained in any lease, underlease or agreement of or relating to any part of such building to enter such building or any part thereof and carry out all such works as may be necessary to comply with the requirements of the Council or with any of the provisions of the above-mentioned sections of this Act, and if the occupier of such building or any part thereof suffers damage by reason of the execution of such works he may apply to the County Court having jurisdiction within the district in which the building is situate, and the Court may after hearing the owner or (if after being duly summoned he shall fail to appear) in his default make such order for compensation to be paid by the owner as the Court may deem just and equitable." He did not think that such a clause as that could possibly be enforced; but the Committee suggest that this, as with all matters in dispute, should be referred to the Tribunal of Appeal.

Section 24, dealing with fees to District Surveyors: the Committee consider the fees proposed too small, and he was glad to say that the District Surveyors' Association thought so too, and had themselves made a schedule which the Committee recommended should be adopted. There were other alterations consequent upon those suggested, all of which had been carefully specified by the Committee.

In conclusion, Mr. Mathews mentioned that the Committee had been favoured by a deputation from the Surveyors' Institution, consisting of the President and four members of the Council. In considering the Bill they had taken a somewhat different view from that taken by the Practice Committee, looking at it rather from the property standpoint. The Surveyors' Institution intended to petition against the Bill on the broad ground of its serious detriment to the value of property, and of injustice between lessors and lessees and other interested parties. Whilst approving of the provision of means of escape in new buildings, they considered that these regulations, if applied to existing buildings, would be oppressive as affecting owners, lessees, and mortgagees of London properties, and would tend to prevent persons of the middle class from carrying on business in their own residences. He thanked the members for their patience in listening to his necessarily disjointed remarks.

Mr. Wm. Woodward [*A.*], after proposing a vote of thanks to the Practice Committee for the trouble they had taken to thrash out the Bill and bring their suggestions before the meeting, said he was sure that every one was desirous, as far as possible, to support by every means in his power measures for the prevention of death by fire. But when they considered the number of deaths by fire in comparison with the population of London, it must be admitted that such a measure as this was out of all proportion to the loss sustained. It might as well be said that because of the number of deaths through persons being run over in the streets of London, which far exceeded the number of deaths by fire, therefore people should not venture into the streets without some measure of this sort which would give the police the control which the London County Council proposed to give itself in this Bill. Curiously enough, although the Bill was so very drastic, yet it omitted from its provisions the very buildings from which loss of life by fire was most frequent; for example, oil shops and other small shops, with their occupants on the first, second, and third floors, were not brought within the provisions of the Bill at all. The two main mischievous features of the Bill were these: First, that Part II., a very important part, was retrospective. In six years from the present time the whole of the buildings in London which were 50 feet, or exceeded 50 feet in height, would be brought within the purview of the Bill if it became law. The second mischievous feature was that the authority to deal with the provisions to be made for escape in case of fire was the London County Council. From his experience of the London County Council with regard to works to be done under the Factories Acts, they were met unnecessarily with requirements which they would not be called upon to fulfil were it not for the fads of some of the officials of that body. With regard to the definition of "owner," that word had never yet been clearly defined; it had not been clearly defined in the Building Act of 1894; it was not clearly defined with regard to the service of party-wall notices; it was by no means clearly defined in the Bill under discussion. But the execution of the works under the Bill would have to be done by the owner, and supposing the lessee was not financially strong the owner might find himself in this position: that having expended thousands of pounds in carrying out works required by the County Council, he had to fall back upon an uncertain tenant, who would leave him the premises not so lettable as they were before the County Council came with their requirements. Therefore the word "owner" should be much more clearly defined. With regard to intermediate lessees one could conceive a very great hardship. Imagine such a building as Mr. Douglass Mathews referred to, where the upper and lower parts were occupied in such a way that they came within the Factory Acts, and the intermediate floor was occupied by a lessee in a way which did not come within the Factory Acts. A staircase and means of exit had to be made in the building, and necessarily it should pass through the floor of the lessee who was not under the Factory Acts. The loss to that man might be enormous, because the area taken up by the staircase would be considerable, and might interfere materially with the accommodation of his building and with its user. It would be monstrous to pass an Act of Parliament which would compel a man who was not under the Factory Acts to comply with the requirements of the County Council in

regard to parts of the building which were under those Acts. He could not understand why the County Council desired to substitute 50 feet for 60 feet. In the Act of 1894 the height sanctioned of buildings was the result of a conference with the Chief of the Fire Brigade, because their fire appliances could reach the 60 feet. Why, then, should the Council now endeavour to bring buildings only 50 feet in height within the purview of the Bill? It would be very hard upon people who, having a building of the height of 60 feet, had obtained the certificate of the County Council that the means of escape were sufficient, that they should now, if there was a wall only 50 feet high, be brought within the purview of the Bill which reduced the height to 50 feet. It might in some cases be a serious hindrance to the occupancy of the premises. With regard to arbitration, let them consider with whom they were to arbitrate. With a body spending the ratepayers' money, which could take the poor litigant from Court to Court until they had exhausted his patience and his finances! That was not arbitration as it was understood in the ordinary way. Arbitration, if it was to be fair, should be fought between men more matched with each other than would be the case if the County Council were one of the parties. The tribunal to which such disputes and all other questions arising under the Bill ought to be referred should be a tribunal similar to that under the Building Act. Again, with regard to matters dealt with by the Bill, why should not the Borough Councils have more to do with them, rather than the whole thing be left to the central body? The central body was already overwhelmed with work, and when one remembered that the whole of the buildings in London over 50 feet in height were involved, one could imagine the neglect that would arise in other business and the disastrous delays that would occur in the administration of the Act. It was certainly a curious coincidence that this Bill should be formulated so soon after that dreadful fire in Queen Victoria Street where the loss of life occurred because the London County Council had not the appliances possessed by other countries and by some of our own provinces. With regard to Part III., which was not retrospective, they should all agree, when they knew exactly what the County Council required, that in the case of new buildings they could in their designs make them, as they should be made, fireproof, with proper staircases and proper exits. But Part II., which was retrospective, was most drastic, and would mean absolute ruin to many of the leaseholders of London. The matter of lift enclosures should be looked carefully into. It would ensure considerable diminution in the staircases, because the lift could not be placed in such a way as they could place it now. Fireproof doors leading on to staircases and fireproof frames, again, would be very unsightly in such buildings as hotels, where sightliness in small details had to be considered. The requirement, again, of two entrances for a building of 40 or 42 feet frontage was absurd.

Mr. Edwin T. Hall [*F.*] said he would like to second the vote of thanks that Mr. Woodward had proposed to the Practice Committee for the care and attention they had devoted to this Bill. He should like to offer some criticisms on the Bill itself, and also on the suggestions of the Practice Committee. With regard to the Bill, he could not help feeling when he read and studied it, that a condition precedent to saving life was to have life to save. If the Bill were carried out it seemed to him that there would be no manufactures carried on and no persons engaged in carrying them on in London at all. There were many questions of principle involved, and many questions of detail which were almost as important as the questions of principle. They were all agreed that in every high building there must be efficient means of exit for any large number of persons employed in it; therefore, if the Bill had been confined to dealing with exceptionally high buildings, it would have had a greater chance of passing through Parliament than was possible as at present drafted. But it dealt not only with high buildings. First it dealt with buildings that were new and high, then with buildings that were old and high, and later on with buildings that were not high at all—they might be only two storeys, and yet they were to come within the purview of the Bill. As regards definitions, he thought there should be a separate definition of "occupier," in order that his obligations might be clearly stated in clauses properly drafted later on in the Bill. Section 8 of the Bill related to a change, an alteration, in the building, which involved an increase in the number of persons who might be employed, &c., and required the owner to give notice of the proposed change, or in default rendered him liable to lose his certificate. It was quite possible that the owner as such might not be the person making the change at all; it was more than likely that the occupying tenant, who had, say, thirty girls employed making collars, owing to a sudden rush might put sixty in, and under this clause, which the Committee had not criticised, the unfortunate owner was to be penalised. He thought it should be the occupier, or failing the occupier the building owner, who should give the necessary notice of any change or alteration, and be the person held responsible. Then with regard to another question of principle, he would venture to criticise an observation of Mr. Woodward's. Mr. Woodward said that the County Council would be able to drive people from court to court. But the Bill distinctly said that they should arbitrate those questions, and there was a section which laid down what the arbitration was to be. Speaking broadly, in case of dispute each person appointed an arbitrator, and an umpire was appointed; therefore there was no question of dragging from court to court. But then there was a question of principle: if there was to be an arbitration should the dispute go before a court such as he had just sketched, that is to say, one practically of three surveyors, or should it go to the Tribunal of Appeal? Of course, there was much to be said for both sides. If they went to the Tribunal of Appeal, they got a continuity of practice and of judgment, perhaps. If they went to the ordinary arbitrators, they got the opinion at all events of two out of three experienced men. Which was the better he was not prepared to say. On the whole he thought the Tribunal of Appeal might be the better; but if that were so ought they not as a principle to lay it down that in every case where the County Council had power to compel works to be done there should be a right of appeal? At present, in some cases there was an appeal and in other cases there was no appeal whatever. One could not forget, too, that in some cases the County Council would not tell why they came to a decision and one could not make them—they would give a reason sometimes, but not always. Therefore he submitted that they ought always to have an opportunity of meeting the Council before some body where they could know the Council's case and the Council could know theirs, and the Tribunal could decide between them. Mr. Woodward had said that Part II. dealt only with old buildings. But Part II. dealt with both old and new buildings. The first section began, "Every new high building shall," &c. Section 11 of Part II. dealt with old buildings; after 1907 all old buildings were to be made to conform to the Act. Now old high buildings very frequently wanted considerable alteration, and the cost was sometimes heavy. He himself had a case in Wood Street not long ago. They had a building with a 20 feet frontage, and some 100 to 120 feet deep. He had to put a County Council staircase in there, which alone cost nearly £4,000; and that was a very serious tax, except under great necessity. He believed it was necessary in that case, and he so advised his clients. Coming to Section 12, which was to be operative in every case, there was no question of height involved at all. "Every

building," irrespective of height, with sleeping accommodation for more than thirty persons, or in which more than thirty persons were employed, was to be provided with means of escape. Now, had the County Council or had the Practice Committee considered what that meant? Every suburban house where there was a ladies' school would come under the operation of that section, and must have a staircase of fire-resisting material, and every master's house attached to any school round London; every private lodging-house—not being, of course, a common lodging-house—would come within it. It meant, in effect, that where there were thirty persons sleeping in a house, that house would have to be converted into what one might call a fire-resisting house. That would mean an immense outlay; and for what purpose? Practically no one was ever burnt in such houses. They were dealing here with four-and-a-half million people. A few people were burnt to death annually. Everyone regretted it; everyone wanted to do all that was reasonably necessary to prevent it. But to have a section like that, which applied to suburban houses in London, seemed to him preposterous, and so drastic that it was perfectly unreasonable. Proceeding to Section 17, that section was in Part III., and these clauses, as distinct from the others in the Bill, were amending clauses to the Building Acts. Section 17, putting it shortly, said that, among others, every block of offices must have every separate tenement partitioned off from every other separate tenement by a fire-resisting partition. Consider what that meant. If this was right, on every change in extent of tenancy in London there would be a repartitioning. In the City of London there were blocks consisting of separate tenements varying from one to twenty rooms in size. If a man occupied twelve rooms, and he left this year and somebody else came in and took two rooms, and another three rooms, or four rooms, every one of those separate tenements must be enclosed by fire-proof partitions. What did that mean? It was an impossible tax on people, and an impracticable tax. Then, again, Subsection 4 limited the area of an office building to 50 squares. That meant a site of 50 feet by 100. They could have no such buildings as the Prudential Insurance Office, Gresham House, Palmerston Buildings, or the Birkbeck Bank. These buildings would have to be things of the past, because this subsection limited the area of any office building. Coming to Subsection 8 of the same section — and this was what Mr. Douglass Mathews referred to as the clause dealing with every 40 feet of frontage—the drafting of that subsection was perfectly unsound. It probably had in view flats erected over shops. He should think that was what must have been in the mind of the draughtsman; but the governing section to which they referred back spoke of it as a building "exceeding ten squares in area, used in part for purposes of trade or manufacture, and in part as a dwelling-house." Did they contemplate that any dwelling-house, as such, on or above the first floor, was going to extend normally to beyond 40 feet? But if they contemplated a series of flats, then the clause was improperly drafted. To meet that case it should be something to the following effect: That if there were a series of upper storeys containing flats horizontally extending on any floor for a length of frontage exceeding 40 feet, then there should be a separate staircase for each series of flats from bottom to top. He did not profess to give the exact words. Then Section 18, Subsection 3, apparently related to shops with residences for assistants over; but as drawn it said, "if the frontage of such building to any one street exceeds 40 feet, an additional staircase and (if the circumstances so require) a passage enclosed and constructed as aforesaid shall (unless the Council otherwise permit) be provided in respect of every 40 feet or fraction of 40 feet of frontage beyond the first 40 feet." Now if this section were intended to deal entirely with shops—it spoke of people in considerable numbers living over, and therefore he presumed it meant shop assistants—then surely the proper thing would be, no matter what the shape or frontage of the building, that there should be alternative escapes for those persons, and that there should be one staircase in a certain proportion to the number of people sleeping on the premises—it might be reasonable to say that for every fifty persons there should be a separate staircase or separate exit. That would be a rational way, at all events, of dealing with it. But under this section they could have a building with 30 feet frontage and 200 feet deep, with 100 people sleeping above, and apparently one staircase would be sufficient; but if they had 200 feet frontage and 30 feet deep, they must have five staircases. Now, where they had 200 feet frontage, they could have fire-escapes and ladders, and save all the people, whereas they could never save all the people in a building situated on the other plan. Then with regard to lift shafts in section 20, the lift shafts in staircases were provided for—they could be made as they are now, but there was a third alternative which was not considered here, which he believed would be better than that specified, from the point of view of fire. This, he might say, was what he had done himself, and he had discussed it with the chief fire insurance companies several times, and they agreed that it was a most excellent plan. It was this: If they could have their lift not enclosed at all, except by lattice, but provided with some fire-resisting flap doors which should close in the floors when the lift had stopped, one would get rid of the great evil which this Bill would bring about, namely, making the shaft of brickwork like a big furnace shaft, so that when the fire got into it, it would run up and set the whole building on fire. If it was not enclosed at all there was no shaft and no means of fire spreading. That, at all events, should be put as an alternative. Then with regard to compensation, it seemed a most iniquitous thing that the owner should have to compensate his tenant for damage by reason of works imposed on him by the public authority. The owner was not only justly compelled to expend many hundreds of pounds in altering his building, but he was to compensate his tenant for the damage that the County Council had caused him to impose upon his tenant. There was one clause drafted by the Practice Committee to which he should like to draw Mr. Douglass Mathews' attention, viz. Section 10, Subsections 1 and 2; this was their suggestion: "The owner of every existing high building"—and these are the exemptions—"other than a dwelling-house occupied as such by more than one family"—I think they mean "by not more than one family." [MR. DOUGLASS MATHEWS: Yes.] And then they go on to say: "And warehouses and other buildings where manufacture is not carried on or persons employed in sedentary occupations above 60 feet in height." Surely they did not mean that! If the building was above 60 feet in height it was to be exempt from the operation of the Act, but if it were less then it was to come within the Act! Then again the details of construction and the rest of the sentence ought to come in after Section 10, Subsection 5. Those were details which he need not trouble them with, because he had dealt with the main principles, and the main principles were such that he ventured to say it showed the wisdom of the Parliamentary Committee in suggesting to the County Council that the Bill should be withdrawn. It should be withdrawn; it should be reconsidered so that it should deal with admitted and grievous danger which required to be remedied; but it should have that self-restraint which all building legislation must of necessity have to commend itself either to Parliament or to architects. He was sure that when the County Council produced such a Bill it would be received and criticised with great care by members of the Institute, and he was also sure that the Institute would at all times be most happy to co-operate

with the London County Council in making sound and wholesome legislation for buildings in London.

Mr. Bernard Dicksee [*A.*] expressed disappointment that one point seemed to have been entirely missed by the Practice Committee—viz. that an architect, when preparing plans for a new building, was entitled to know exactly what he had to cope with in the way of legislation. As the Bill was drawn, in the case of buildings coming within the provisions of Part II., plans must be submitted in almost every case to the County Council for approval before a brick could be laid. That was one of the great faults of the Bill. Every provision, he contended, should be laid down, as much as possible, as a hard and fast rule. But the Council should have power under the Bill to allow deviations at their discretion. The District Surveyor should have the carrying out of a definite set of rules in the case of all new buildings. It was perfectly clear that when provisions came to be applied to existing buildings, there must be some authority to set things in motion, and certainly, speaking for himself as a District Surveyor, he should not like to be that authority. It must, he thought, be in the hands of the authority for the whole of London. With regard to the suggestion that the Borough Councils should have a finger in the pie, he thought the little they had to do with under the present Building Acts, as to wooden structures, was one of the greatest mistakes ever made in modern legislation; they licensed structures that were properly buildings. With regard to Clause 17, he thought Mr. Hall had not quite grasped the operation of that clause. It was to take the place of that much-debated section in the London Building Act, Section 74. A building used in part for purposes of trade and in part as a dwelling was not a building of flats, but a large trade building, such as a drapery store, where people resided on the premises. The Section 74 was put in at the instigation of the District Surveyors (though he was glad to say it was not their wording), because of a bad fire some years ago in Lavender Hill, and the more recent one at Garrould's, Edgware Road. It was put in to provide that where a building was used jointly for trade and dwelling there should be a definite separation between the two parts. Unfortunately, the Judges had placed upon that section a construction that nobody intended it to bear, and it had become practically a dead letter. It was sought by the Amendment Bill to set that right, but he was bound to admit that the clause as drawn did not do so. The District Surveyors had re-drafted the clause, and they hoped that the County Council would adopt it as revised.

Mr. Hall said he had not misunderstood Section 17. Subsection 2 spoke of buildings containing separate sets of chambers or offices, and he had addressed himself to that. Subsection 5 of the same section dealt with what Mr. Dicksee was speaking of. He (Mr. Hall) differentiated between the two. He had only referred to the absurdity of the 40-feet frontage.

Mr. Edward Greenop [*A.*], *Hon. Sec. Practice Committee*, referring to Mr. Bernard Dicksee's criticism, said that the Practice Committee had not lost sight of the fact that these matters of new buildings were to be left to the County Council. The Committee strongly advised that all details should be left to the District Surveyors, so that they might avoid going to the County Council upon those points.

Mr. C. H. Brodie [*A.*] said that the whole business had to be rushed through at such a rate that the Practice Committee had had but a very short time in which to consider the Bill. The County Council had named a date by which the recommendations from the Institute should reach them, and the Practice Committee had had to meet night after night. He himself happened to be out of London, so that the onus of the whole business fell on his friend and colleague, Mr. Greenop. Taking into account the difficulties of the work and the short time at their disposal, it was not to be surprised at if some mistakes had crept in. As a matter of fact, the gentlemen who had spoken that evening, and who had had the recommendations of the Practice Committee before them, were in a very much better position than the Practice Committee were when the matter was being considered by them. On the general principles involved in this sort of legislation, he could not but think that the County Council, and even Parliament itself, would be well advised to consult people who knew something about the matter they were taking in hand. He doubted if the Municipal Council of Paris, for instance, would be listened to in Parliament for a moment unless they first showed that they had taken the opinion of the qualified body of professional men whom they were employing, and that those qualified professional men had either drafted or approved the measure. As far as he understood, the District Surveyors, the people of all men in the world who knew the difficulties of such legislation as this, and who were prepared to meet those difficulties, did not appear to have had the slightest hand in the preparation of this Bill. The same remark applied to the Institute, a body of professional men well known to be always willing to assist the County Council in questions of this kind. He felt very strongly that no Bill of this class should have even a chance of passing in Parliament unless it were put forward with the consent of the Institute and of the Surveyors' Institution.

Mr. Thomas Blashill [*F.*] thought that architects, at all events, should approach this matter not merely by a verbal statement that they were willing to do everything for the public good, but they ought to show their willingness by the propositions they themselves either made or felt inclined to agree to. They should not leave it in doubt whether anything was wanted at all. This Bill was intended to provide means of escape against fire. It was not the intention to say, "if the owner can do it at a moderate expense." He must do it. He must provide means of escape. That must be understood, and then the question narrowed itself down to questions of detail. A good deal of objection had been taken to the inclusion of persons "resorting to" a building. Suppose the case of a good many hotels or places often used for public meetings, where hundreds of people were sometimes packed together – not employés, not clerks, not assistants, not men working in factories. Were these people not to have any protection? If the words "resorting to" were not the proper words, surely some other words might be substituted. The proprietor of a hall where people came to hear music would be obliged to provide means of escape; but if people met together to talk over company matters and things of that kind, were they not equally entitled to protection? And if the words used in the Bill were not the right words, could not another form of words be suggested? He hoped that every architect would simplify this matter, as far as lay in his power, by the simple process of having none but fireproof floors. Could they not make it known in some public way that no architect who had proper care for his clients and for the lives of persons living or lodging or sleeping or working or even resorting to the building would ever make a floor other than a fireproof floor? It was a great many years since he had put in any other kind of floor. Every artisans' dwelling erected by the County Council had not only fireproof floors, but fireproof partitions. A fireproof partition was not only a cheaper partition, if properly constructed, but took up less room, needing to be only $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches instead of the 6 inches required for the old-fashioned partition. As regards panelling, he hoped architects would not yield to their clients who wanted panelling with open space behind it. Nothing had carried fire, in the days of dangerous fires, like hollow spaces in panelling. He did not know that panelling was wanted at all, but if it was

used there must not be any space behind it. Every one would agree that the oil-shops were very dangerous premises. In his judgment the provision of the present Act, that there should be ten squares before they could demand a fire-resisting floor, was absurd. There was no reason whatever for omitting in the case of any building used partly for trade or manufacture and partly as a dwelling proper fireproof construction between the two parts, whatever the area might be. As regards the operation of the Bill being "retrospective," they could not justify the making of new buildings fire-resisting at the expense of the persons newly building without sooner or later making it retrospective. He did not know who the people with fads were to whom Mr. Woodward alluded. He ventured to say that those things which were called "fads" were the result of the experience of people who had to look after these matters. It would have been perfectly easy for gentlemen to have come to this meeting prepared with some cases in which they had been ill treated by the powers that be or were, but not one of them would do anything of the kind. A statement had been made that evening which he had many times before controverted—viz. that the County Council would not give reasons. Over and over again, however, had he given his reasons to those who had come to see him about these things in years gone by. He did not know what the practice was now—it might be entirely different; he could only speak of his own experience.

Mr. HALL: I should like, if I may be allowed to interrupt, to say that we all know that Mr. Blashill was most considerate and kind. My observation was that sometimes they would give an explanation and sometimes they would not.

Mr. BLASHILL, continuing, said that the statement was made in his time unfortunately, and was made before Committees of Parliament. He was challenged by the Chairman of a Parliamentary Committee: "Why do you not give reasons?" and he replied that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the only reason they could give was that they considered the thing to be dangerous, and that did not satisfy the objecting party. Afterwards, when they were obliged to give reasons, they could only say that, and the other side were not any more pleased than before. With regard to lifts, he had himself taken the responsibility to permit, and indeed to encourage, architects to adopt in proper places, such as factories, a lift which was enclosed not by brick walls, or any sort of enclosure making a chimney-like structure, but by fireproof netting; but it was only in certain cases, and then they made them put a partition five feet high, so that any person slipping might crawl out and get past the lift. In conclusion Mr. Blashill pointed out that they had the fire insurance people to look to, who were getting more exigent than the County Council itself.

THE PRESIDENT said that they were all agreed that the clauses of the Bill as drawn were far too drastic for the present occasion; the Council had come to the same conclusion after they had heard Mr. Douglass Mathews' representations, and they had so written to the County Council. The Council also proposed to take steps to be represented before the Committee of the House should the Bill reach that stage. From representations made to him he knew that the County Council were desirous of having the opinions of members on this Bill, and were also willing to consider the opinions which they might lay before them, and to adapt, as far as possible, their Bill to what they admitted to be an expert opinion of the greatest possible value to them in drafting such a measure as this. There was one other thing he thought they were all agreed upon—viz. their obligations to the Practice Committee for the enormous trouble and labour that they had gone through. He had heard of them sitting up to 12 o'clock at night going through the Bill and preparing their amendments. Mr. Douglass Mathews had come down to the Council and explained it, as he had done again at that meeting; and Mr. Greenop and other members of the Committee had taken the greatest trouble with it. Although it might not be very interesting, there was no doubt that measures of this kind affected architects to an enormous extent, and it was impossible very often for them to realise till afterwards the extraordinary difficulties that such measures placed in their way. There were other measures that had slipped through, such as the obligation to place soil pipes on their front elevations, and things of that kind, which affected architects very closely, and if gentlemen would take the trouble, as the Practice Committee had done, to look into these matters and inform them where they thought such regulations would work hardly upon architects, it was impossible not only for the Institute but for the whole body of practising architects in London not to feel their indebtedness to the gentlemen who took that trouble. He therefore asked the meeting to pass very heartily the vote of thanks which had been proposed by Mr. Woodward, and seconded by Mr. Hall, to the gentlemen of the Practice Committee for the trouble that they had taken.

Mr. DOUGLASS MATHEWS thanked the meeting in the name of the Practice Committee for the Vote of Thanks which had been accorded them. The Committee had had nine meetings, many of them largely attended, and they were therefore accustomed to differences of opinion upon certain points. They would have been much surprised if everybody present had agreed to all that the Practice Committee suggested. Something had been said with regard to different clauses being retrospective. That was a difficulty, no doubt, but if it was necessary in the case of new buildings to guard against loss of life, it was equally necessary to make the old buildings safe. He agreed with Mr. Woodward about the oil and drapery stores. It would be a good plan to turn their attention to some simple means of rendering dwellings secure over such shops. He fully agreed with what Mr. Hall had said as to Section 12 applying to all buildings. It did apply to all buildings where more than thirty people were employed or slept—"frequented or resorted to," to use the words of the Bill: in fact, it would take in an ordinary three-storeyed house occupied in offices, and would also apply to every building practically—churches, schools, and places of worship; not even their own meeting-room at the Institute would be exempted. He did not quite understand where they were wrong with reference to Section 10 in exempting buildings above 50 feet where people were not employed in sedentary occupations. If a building was more than 50 feet, according to the Act it was a high building, and it was the high buildings that were exempted provided they were not used for sedentary employments. With regard to Mr. Dicksee's complaint that they had not defined what the requirements of the Act should be, the Committee had endeavoured to do so, so far as they could. It was impossible for anybody to say in an Act of Parliament exactly what should be done in every case; but they agreed that something more definite was required, and they proposed to insert the words: "by internal or external staircases, balconies outside windows, access to the roofs of contiguous premises, or other means of exit."

Prizes and Studentships 1903-1904.

The pamphlet giving full particulars of the Prizes and Studentships offered by the Institute for the year 1903–1904 will be issued to members with the next number of the JOURNAL. The prizes and subjects are briefly as follows:—

THE ESSAY MEDAL AND TWENTY-FIVE GUINEAS, open to British subjects under the age of forty.—*Subject:* "The Delineation of Architecture."

THE MEASURED DRAWINGS MEDAL AND TEN GUINEAS, open to British subjects under the age of thirty.—Awarded for the best set of measured drawings of any important building—Classical or Mediæval—in the United Kingdom or abroad.

THE SOANE MEDALLION AND ONE HUNDRED POUNDS, open to British subjects under the age of thirty.—*Subject:* Design for a University Theatre on an Open Site.

THE PUGIN STUDENTSHIP: SILVER MEDAL AND FORTY POUNDS, open to members of the architectural profession (of all countries) between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five.—Founded to promote the study of the Mediæval Architecture of Great Britain and Ireland, and awarded for the best selection of drawings and testimonials.

THE GODWIN BURSARY: SILVER MEDAL AND SIXTY-FIVE POUNDS, open to members of the architectural profession without limitation of age.—Founded to promote the study of works of Modern Architecture Abroad, and awarded for the best selection of practical working drawings, or other evidence of special practical knowledge, and testimonials.

THE OWEN JONES STUDENTSHIP: CERTIFICATE AND ONE HUNDRED POUNDS, open to members of the architectural profession under the age of thirty-five.—Founded to encourage the Study of Architecture, more particularly in respect to Ornament and Coloured Decoration. Competitors must submit testimonials, with drawings exhibiting their acquaintance with colour decoration and with the leading subjects treated of in Owen Jones's *Grammar of Ornament*.

THE TITE PRIZE: CERTIFICATE AND THIRTY POUNDS, open to members of the architectural profession under the age of thirty.—*Subject:* A Design, according to the Principles of Palladio, Vignola, Wren, or Chambers, for a Crescent in a Large City.

THE GRISSELL GOLD MEDAL AND TEN GUINEAS, open to British subjects who have not been in practice more than ten years.—Founded to encourage the Study of Construction. *Subject:* Design for a Timber Spire or Lantern Termination to a Tower.

THE ARTHUR CATES PRIZE: A SUM OF FORTY GUINEAS, open to British subjects who have passed the R.I.B.A. Final Examination at one Sitting during 1902 and 1903.—Candidates must submit (1) The original testimonies of study which procured their admission to the Final Examination; (2) Not less than three sheets comprising studies of subjects of Classical, or Renaissance, and of Mediæval Architecture, accurately drawn in perspective and shaded by rule, and also detailed studies of a groined vault of any period between A.D. 1100 and 1500. The prize will be awarded for the best set of drawings.

THE ASHPITEL PRIZE: BOOKS VALUE TEN POUNDS.—Awarded to the student who distinguishes himself most highly in the Institute Final Examinations 1903.

Copies of the pamphlet may be obtained at the Institute, price threepence each.

Architects' Registration.

At the General Meeting last Monday the President stated that the attention of the Council had been drawn to a circular issued to architects and others headed "A Government Diploma for Architects" This document, he said, gave no details, but he had been empowered by the Council to announce that they were still opposed to any such scheme of registration as that set forth in a previous Bill dealing with the same subject; but when the details of the proposed Bill were before them, and had been duly considered, the Council would be prepared to give their definite views as to the course to be taken.

Chepping Wycombe Town Hall Competition.

The Corporation of Chepping Wycombe having altered their conditions by adding to Clause 3, after the words "themselves prefer," the words "but it is the intention and the wish of the Corporation to accept the Assessor's award unless there should appear any valid reason to the contrary," the President of the Institute has consented to nominate an Assessor.

The Wellington Monument at St Paul's.

Some admirable views, now published for the first time, of Stevens's full-size plaster model for the equestrian statue of the Duke of Wellington in St. Paul's Cathedral are given in the *Architectural Review* for March. Since Stevens's death this model (minus the Duke's head, which was sawn off by Mr. Stannus and preserved separately for greater security) has lain in the crypt of St. Paul's. As it was kept covered up it was scarcely ever noticed by visitors; and even when uncovered, the bad light, the closeness of the model to the wall, and the absence of the rider's head made it difficult to form an accurate idea of the design and of its condition. The model is represented in the *Architectural Review* as seen from various points of view—two front views, right and left; also as designed to be seen from the nave, and again as it was to be seen from the north aisle. Such defects as there are in the model—the broken fingers and fractured drapery, the missing hoof and tail—can, it appears, all be made good by following carefully the small sketch model of the equestrian figure at South Kensington. Mr. D. S. MacColl, discussing in the *Review* the question as to how far Stevens had "finished" his model, is of opinion that the last refinements had not been given to the work.

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The state of the hoof, the tail, the hands, the draperies, the mane, the holsters, and much of the surface modelling speaks of a stage short of this. The head, however, as is evident from the photograph, had been brought to a higher state of finish, and is a most interesting reading of the Duke as portrait sculpture. Stevens's practice was to do a good deal of his final shaping by work upon the plaster with riffel-files and other scraping tools. Parts of the horse show signs of having been modelled thus in the plaster, and there can be no doubt that Stevens would have taken up his details again and wrought them nearer to the degree of finish found in the bronze of the allegorical groups. Mr. MacColl rightly points out, however, that the horse will be farther from the eye than these groups; that at the height of the monument, and in the light of St. Paul's, the difference between highly finished detail, and detail short of that finish, will be hardly discernible; and it may well be supposed that Stevens would have treated his detail more broadly than in the case of a group to be seen at the level of the spectator's eye. "Stevens's magnificent design is there, however," says Mr. MacColl, "arrested possibly in some particulars by his death; but in a shape that no living man, even if he had Stevens's genius, would have the right to touch, supposing he had the desire." The *Architectural Review* has other illustrations, sketch drawings and models, connected with the design of the monument.

Rights of Authorship in Architecture.

The Committee of the Société Centrale des Architectes Français has passed the following resolution concerning the rights of authorship in architecture: "The architect has the right to forbid the reproduction by photography of any public or private building of which he is author, unless, of course, an agreement to the contrary has been made between him and the owner of the building. In the case of any reproduction of the building by photography and the sale of these reproductions, the architect has the power to exact the fees due to his right of authorship. The mention of his name and his quality as architect is obligatory on all reproductions."

Prizes for Architectural Studies.

The Technical Education Board of the London County Council offer the following prizes for carefully executed drawings of buildings, churches, and of artistic objects in museums (South Kensington Museum and the British Museum especially). Two prizes of £15 each, two prizes of £10 each, and two prizes of £5 each. The drawings may be in pencil, ink, or colour, as best fitted to the subjects represented. The subject selected may be in several classes of work or wholly in one, as, for instance, goldsmiths' work, furniture, stained glass, pottery, ironwork, fine textiles, embroideries, &c. The objects must be represented as faithfully and carefully as possible; no mere sketches will be accepted. As far as possible the drawings should be of full size, or an actual or approximate scale should be noted, together with any explanatory notes thought desirable. Students are recommended to select objects in the classes of work in which they are most interested, and from Gothic or Eastern examples as much as or more than from those of Renaissance style. Works submitted for competition must have been executed since the summer of 1902, and must not previously have been sent in for any competition. Candidates must be resident within the County of London and students in schools which are maintained or aided by the Board.

The Cardiff Society.

The Cardiff, South Wales, and Monmouthshire are doing valuable work in providing facilities for their younger members and students to inspect and have explained to them various details of the important buildings in course of erection in their neighbourhood. Last Saturday a party of about fifty were conducted over the new Town Hall and Law Courts by the architect, Mr. H. V. Lanchester. The President, Mr. David Morgan, and some of the past Presidents of the Society accompanied the party and assisted in explaining the character of the work as they went round the buildings.

REVIEWS.

BUILDING CONTRACTS.

Conditions of Contract Relating to Building Works. By Frank W. Macey, Architect. Revised as to the strictly legal matter by B. J. Leverson, Barrister-at-Law. 8o. *Lond.* 1902. *Price* 15*s.* [*B. T. Batsford, 94, High Holborn, W.C.*]

This work deals—and perhaps too fully for the average architect's attention—with conditions of contract and with agreements as applied to all classes of building works. Further—and this no doubt causes the extension—with the law generally in its relation to various matters coming within the scope, or what the author so considers, of the architectural profession.

Opening with tables of cases cited and lists of Acts of Parliament and legal and other works consulted, the author follows with some general notes upon the position and authority of the architect which are well worth attention. So also is the note as to our professional charges, the Institute Schedule being of course quoted. It is a question worth consideration whether it would

not be wise for architects to send a copy of this schedule to all new clients, mentioning that their charges will be as therein stated. This being accepted by the client, disputes could hardly afterwards occur. Whipham *v.* Everitt, 1900, seems to have decided that this schedule is the "customary" scale, although, of course, the schedule has no legal status.

The "conditions" themselves are so mixed up with other matters in the book under review, and the cross references are so frequent, that it is not at all easy to follow what is so clear in the "Conditions of Contract" issued by the Institute, viz., just the exact conditions under which the contractor is bound to carry out the particular works mentioned in the agreement he is signing.

Looking down the Table of Contents of this book, one sees, for instance, "Contractor to visit Site and to make Allowance for all Contingencies," "Hoarding and Fencing-in Site," "Shoring," "Contractor to set out the Works," "Watchmen, Lights and Guard," "Provision for the Clerk of Works' Office"—none of which seem to me to be "conditions" of the contract, but parts of the work to be carried out, and which, therefore, ought to be in the specification.

Various forms of agreement and tender are given, and also a contract form with a house breaker. Some eighteen pages are devoted to definitions of words and phrases used. Among these appear "Agreement," "Architect," "Contractor," "Corporation," "Defendant," "Plaintiff," "Drawings," "Specification," "Tender," "Turnpike Road," "Umpire," "Valuer," and others not so well known. Those quoted might be assumed to be understood by any professional man, one would think. The index is full and excellent.

The book will no doubt be exceedingly useful to any budding barrister or solicitor entering for a prize essay on "The Law relating to Building Contracts." A busy architect trying to live on "5 per cent. and no extras" will no doubt send a shilling to the Institute office and get, ready for immediate use, any conditions of contract and agreement he is lucky enough to require.

C. H. Brodie.

PERSPECTIVE.

Perspective at sight. R.'s method. 8*o. Lond.* 2*s.* 6*d. net.* [*G. H. Tyndall, The Minster Press, Ely; Reeves & Sons, Limited,* 4, *Farringdon Avenue, E.C.*] *Large Diagrams for Office Use sold by B. T. Batsford,* 94, *High Holborn, W.C.*

R.'s method of perspective at sight is an ingenious attempt to apply the usual system of perspective drawing employed by architects to the production of tolerably correct sketches and drawings, without the laborious process of setting up the building from plan, or finding the vanishing points. The apparatus consists of a rather small, neat sketch-book, with leaves of semi-transparent paper, perforated for detachment after use; and a number of strongly ruled diagrams to fit the book. In these, points of height are set up to scale and lines drawn from them to vanishing points as required by certain points of view, while the distances, also set up to scale, have vertical lines drawn through them. Six diagrams are supplied, four of which are for external views. There is, in addition, a diagram ruled into squares, intended to be used "for plans, details, and drawing in proportion," as well as a short explanatory pamphlet and a "key to proportions and scales for diagrams." Large diagrams for office use are also to be published.

The "method" consists in placing one of the diagrams under a leaf of the sketch-book, then, viewing the building from the position indicated by the diagram and the key, it is claimed that the delineation of the subject "is made so simple that anyone wishing to draw correctly (*i.e.* in perspective) can start right away, for vanishing lines and diminishing widths are before your eyes." This would be perfectly true, and the "method" would apply admirably, if buildings consisted merely of flat walls; but there is no help to be gained from it for the correct drawing of circular work, bay windows, porches, or other projections, nor for L-shaped buildings, or obtaining the lengths of ridges, or the position of chimney-stacks, dormers, turrets, or other points in a building which are set back from the plane of the front. These must be set up by eye. One drawback in the "method" is that it can only be used on semi-transparent paper.

Indeed, the "method" appears to be of limited application, and most architects will rely on the usual architectural system. A draughtsman ought to be able to draw small sketches in perspective, especially if from actual work, well enough without the assistance of the "method"; and for large and careful studies the ordinary system employed cannot be bettered. The "method," however, may have its uses, when the draughtsman is not very skilled, in aiding him to prepare rough drawings, if the points of view of the diagrams happen to be the best for the building. In sketching actual work it may assist the beginner to correct drawing in such cases as the spacing of an arcade, enriched ceiling or floor, or other subject, in perspective. But to rely on it to teach drawing, and to be an easy way out of the mill of perspective study, is to put it to a use the inventor does not intend, and as such it will do more harm than good. As a stepping-stone to the time when the beginner can sketch without using an artificial aid, especially if backed up by a proper study of perspective drawing, the "method" will fulfil all that could be desired of it, while in the process of design it may help the

student to realise the outline and proportion of his group when seen in perspective, though the drawing be of the roughest description.

GEOFFRY LUCAS.

MINUTES. IX.

At a Special General Meeting held Monday, 2nd March 1903, at 8 p.m., Mr. Aston Webb, A.R.A., F.S.A., *President*, in the Chair, with 14 Fellows (including 8 members of the Council) and 16 Associates (including 1 member of the Council), the Chairman announced that the Meeting was convened pursuant to By-law for the purpose of electing the Royal Gold Medallist for the current year, and moved in accordance with notice that Mr. Charles Follen McKim, of New York, U.S.A., President of the American Institute of Architects, be elected for the honour. Whereupon it was

RESOLVED, *nem. con.*, that subject to His Majesty's gracious sanction the Royal Gold Medal for the promotion of architecture be awarded this year to Mr. Charles Follen McKim, of New York, for his work as an architect.

This concluded the business of the Special Meeting.

At the Ninth General Meeting of the Session 1902–1903, following the Special Meeting above referred to and similarly constituted, the Minutes of the Meeting held 16th February 1903 [p. 220] were taken as read and signed as correct.

The following Fellow attending for the first time since his election was formally admitted and signed the register —viz. John Robert Moore-Smith.

The President, referring to a circular recently issued to architects and others headed "A Government Diploma for Architects," announced that the Council were still opposed to any such scheme of registration as that set forth in a previous Bill dealing with the same subject, but when the details of the proposed Bill were before them and had been duly considered, the Council would be prepared to give their definite views as to the course to be taken.

The following candidates for membership in the various classes were elected by show of hands under By-law 9, viz.:—

AS FELLOWS (9).

WILFRID AINSLIE.
SIR ROBERT ROWAND ANDERSON, LL.D., F.R.S.E. (Edinburgh).
THOMAS EDWIN COOPER.
HERBERT DAVIS (Scarborough).
JAMES MACINTYRE HENRY (Edinburgh).
WALTER STIRRUP (Blackburn).
WILLIAM ANGELO WADDINGTON [*A.*] (Manchester).
JOHN HENRY TOWNSEND WOODD, M.A.Cantab.
ARTHUR WILLIAM YEOMANS (Chard, Somerset).

AS ASSOCIATES (22).

ROBERT BENNETT [*Probationer* 1898, *Student* 1900, *Qualified* 1902] (Buxton).
WILLIAM EDWARD BROOKS [*Probationer* 1900, *Student* 1901, *Qualified* 1902].
FREDERICK BILLINGHURST CHESTER [*Probationer* 1892, *Student* 1898, *Qualified* 1902].
WALTER ST. LEGER CROWLEY [*Probationer* 1896, *Student* 1899, *Qualified* 1902] (Cardiff).
WILLIAM GREENWOOD [*Ashpitel Prizeman* 1902, *Probationer* 1900, *Student* 1901, *Qualified* 1902] (Blackburn, Lancs.).
JOHN HINDLE HIGSON [*Probationer* 1895, *Student* 1898, *Qualified* 1902] (Blackburn).
JOSEPH HOLT [*Probationer* 1893, *Student* 1898, *Qualified* 1902] (Wilmslow, Cheshire).
CHARLES HENRY HOPSON [*Colonial Examination, Montreal* 1902] (Canada).
HENRY JOSEPH BISSAKER HOSKINS [*Probationer* 1898, *Student* 1900, *Qualified* 1902] (Birmingham).
JOHN IVOR PRICE JONES [*Probationer* 1895, *Student* 1898, *Qualified* 1902] (Cardiff).
JAMES MORTON LETHBRIDGE [*Probationer* 1898, *Student* 1900, *Qualified* 1902].
THOMAS FORBES MACLENNAN [*Special Examination* 1902] (Edinburgh).
THOMAS McLAREN [*Colonial Examination, Montreal* 1902] (Montreal).
CHARLES ERNEST MONRO [*Probationer* 1891, *Student* 1899, *Qualified* 1902] (Glasgow).
GEORGE SALWAY NICOL [*Probationer* 1895, *Student* 1897, *Qualified* 1902] (Birmingham).
CHARLES EDMUND LANCASTER PARKINSON [*Probationer* 1899, *Student* 1900, *Qualified* 1902].
FRANK GEORGE RICHARDSON [*Special Examination* 1901].
NATHAN THOMAS SALMON [*Probationer* 1895, *Student* 1897, *Qualified* 1902] (Reading).
STANLEY TOWSE [*Probationer* 1893, *Student* 1899, *Qualified* 1902].
WILLIAM HENRY WATKINS [*Probationer* 1899, *Student* 1901, *Qualified* 1902] (Bristol).
HORACE WHITE [*Probationer* 1896, *Student* 1898, *Qualified* 1902].
FRANCIS CARR WRIGLEY [*Probationer* 1897, *Student* 1899, *Qualified* 1902].

AS HON. CORRESPONDING MEMBER.

CONSTANT MOYAUX, Member of the Institute of France, President of the Société Centrale des Architectes Français, Paris.

The Meeting then proceeded to a discussion of the measure for amending the London Building Acts to be brought forward by the London County Council, and upon the invitation of the President Mr. J. Douglass Mathews [*F.*], Chairman of the Practice Standing Committee, briefly reviewed the provisions of the Bill and dealt with the alterations suggested by his Committee. The impracticable nature of the measure in various respects having also been pointed out by other speakers, the Chairman announced that the Council would take the necessary steps to oppose the Bill should it come before Parliament.

A vote of thanks to the Practice Committee for their labours in connection with the Bill was passed by acclamation. The proceedings then closed and the Meeting separated at 10 p.m.